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Security Council

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Thursday, 16 December 2010, 10.25 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Rice	(United States of America)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić/Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min/Mr. Yang Tao
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Nishida
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Mutrif Siddiq, State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of the Sudan.

It is so decided.

On behalf of the Security Council, I extend invitations under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan.

It is so decided.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Pagan Amum, Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

It is so decided.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf.

"The Security Council welcomes the Sudanese parties' reaffirmations of their commitment to full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and reaffirms its strong support for the parties' efforts in this regard. The Security Council welcomes the conclusion of a peaceful registration process for the Southern Sudan referendum in the Sudan, and encourages the parties to continue this forward momentum towards peaceful and credible referendums held on January 9, 2011, that reflect the will of the people. The Council strongly urges the CPA parties to promptly fulfil their remaining commitments to finance the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, led by President Benjamin Mkapa, and welcomes its work, including its December 9, 2010, statement noting that the registration process provides the basis for a credible referendum. The Council extends its appreciation for the efforts of international and domestic observers.

"The Security Council notes with deep concern the absence of an agreement on Abyei. The Security Council strongly urges the parties to calm rising tensions in Abyei, to urgently reach agreement on Abyei and other outstanding CPA issues and to resolve critical post-referendum issues, including the border, security, citizenship, debts, assets, currency and natural resources. The Council welcomes the work of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki, and its continuing efforts in this regard.

"The Security Council reiterates its call for all parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Mission in the Sudan in the discharge of its mandate, specifically with respect to protection of civilians and to granting unhindered access and freedom of movement.

"The Security Council reiterates the urgent need for the parties to provide immediate and ongoing reassurance to people of all nationalities in the Sudan, so that their rights, safety and property will be respected whatever the outcome of the referendums, and the urgent need to focus on the security and protection of minorities, including Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South. The Security Council urges the parties to ensure that citizenship and residency arrangements are in accordance with applicable international obligations and to refrain from arbitrarily depriving an individual of citizenship. The Council urges the CPA parties to respect their obligations.

"The Council stresses the importance of inclusive, timely and credible popular consultations processes in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states, in accordance with the CPA. The

Council also stresses the need for Southern Kordofan state-level elections to be held in accordance with the timeline established by the National Elections Commission.

"The Security Council underlines that, whatever the outcome of the referendums, continued cooperation between the CPA parties will remain essential. The Council stresses the importance of the parties abiding by the commitments recorded in the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel statement of 15 November, including to find peaceful solutions to all outstanding matters, to never resort to war again, and that neither party should take any action or support any group that would undermine the security of the other.

"The Council is deeply concerned about the recent military incidents in the Kiir River Valley and the subsequent displacement of civilians, and urges all parties to exercise restraint, avoiding escalation.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the African Union-United Nations-led peace process for Darfur, hosted by the Government of Qatar. The Council strongly urges all rebel movements to join the peace process without further delay or preconditions.

"The Council reiterates the importance of increased participation of women in the Sudanese peace processes. The Security Council reiterates its deep concern about the increases in violence and insecurity in Darfur, including recently in Khor Abeche, such as ceasefire violations, attacks by rebel groups, increased intertribal fighting, attacks on humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers and aerial bombardment by the Government of the Sudan.

"The Council recalls the importance it attaches to an end to impunity and to justice for crimes committed in Darfur. The Council reiterates its willingness to consider measures against any party whose actions undermine peace in the Sudan."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2010/28.

I now give the floor to Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Le Roy (*spoke in French*): Less than 24 days before the date set for the referendums, we are at the most critical stage of the peace process. The determination of the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to achieve peace, stability and coexistence will be the decisive factor. The United Nations and the international community will of course continue to strongly support the parties, the institutions involved and the Sudanese people throughout the peace process and beyond.

With regard to the referendum in Southern Sudan, notable progress has been made. Voter registration took place from 15 November to 8 December. The process has generally gone well, without major disturbances or violent incidents. The Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, represented here by Mr. Mkapa and responsible for observing the referendums in the Southern Sudan and Abyei, has concluded that the registration process was both transparent and free of any organized fraud.

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission is in the process of compiling voter lists. According to the latest unofficial published by the Commission, more that 115,000 people were registered in the North of Sudan and more than 2.9 million in Southern Sudan. To clarify, however, this figure is based on only 60 per cent of the voter registration centres in Southern Sudan, so the final figure will clearly be between 3 and 4 million voters.

Voter registration was also completed on 8 December in Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Great Britain. The Commission has adjusted the electoral timetable for other centres that opened later, such that three centres in Egypt will close on 18 December and five centres in the United States will close on 22 December. The number of those on the list in the eight countries other than the Sudan now stands at more than 57,000 voters.

Preparations for the 9 January referendum itself are also under way. Necessary equipment has been obtained. Electoral equipment has arrived in the Sudan and is being distributed. Additional staff has been found for the voting centres, and their training began on 13 December. Data collection centres in Khartoum and Juba are operational. Voting and vote-counting procedures, as well as plans for announcing the results, are now being finalized.

At the same time, however, the Commission is continuing to encounter difficulties in obtaining the necessary funds as promised by the Government. The two Governments must urgently provide the funding required and fulfil their responsibilities in organizing the referendum.

Despite the tight schedule, the success of the voter registration is an example of what the North and the South can achieve when they work together. It is vital that the parties continue their efforts and maintain a political environment favourable to holding a free referendum without violence.

In order to ensure a smooth transition at the end of the referendum process and the interim period, the parties must agree on the key issues for the post-referendum period, including resource-sharing, the management of capital and debt, citizenship and border security arrangements. It is vital that the parties reach a framework agreement on those issues before the referendums are held. Progress has recently been made in the negotiations, facilitated by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel with the support of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), the United States and other international partners.

The outcome of the negotiations will have significant implications for a number of the stakeholders. For example, one of the most serious issues is that of citizenship. Possible changes in the status of property rights will also be a major concern for Southern Sudanese living in the North and Northern Sudanese living in the South.

The current stalemate on the question of Abyei is of major concern. We are particularly concerned by the lack of any progress in setting up the referendum commission for Abyei and the discussions by the parties on the future status of Abyei. Despite some apparent progress under the auspices of the High-Level Implementation Panel, no agreement has yet been reached and tension is growing on the ground.

Political sensitivities and historical complexities related to the issue of Abyei make it even more delicate for one of the parties to consider options that could be seen by their constituents as being concessions. Given this, the parties cannot allow themselves not to resolve this issue. Tensions and frustration on the ground will only increase, and that will make the issue of Abyei more difficult to resolve, particularly because the migration of the Misseriya has already begun.

In such an environment, any security incident could derail the CPA process. The parties must therefore demonstrate responsible leadership and recognize that difficult compromises are required in order to ensure peaceful coexistence among communities. All efforts are being made by the parties concerned, particularly by UNMIS, to encourage the leaders to agree on a solution as soon as possible.

Other provisions of the CPA require immediate attention. For example, finalizing the demarcation of the North-South border, moving troops away from the common border and the joint monitoring of those zones by the two parties in order to avoid possible tension are necessary to maintain border security between the North and the South.

Popular consultations in the states of Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile are also being postponed. Parties should pay more attention to those issues, which represent an opportunity to enhance North-South relations and future stability in the North.

It is important to point out that on 6 December the parties signed a framework agreement on the security arrangements for the oil fields and oil installations located south of the current borderline. That agreement stipulates that the Joint Integrated Units will continue to provide security on the external periphery of the oil installations until 9 July 2011, while the security forces of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services and the Sudanese police will protect the internal periphery of those installations.

(*spoke in English*)

We are concerned about the recent reports of bombings by the Sudanese armed forces along the border areas between Northern Bahr El Ghazal state and South Darfur and in Western Bahr El Ghazal state. Those attacks are allegedly directed against the Justice and Equality Movement, but they have also resulted in casualties among the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

We urge both Governments to exercise restraint and prevent the situation from escalating. Either party's support to rebel groups against the other constitutes a violation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement. Any such accusation should thus be brought to the attention of the appropriate mechanisms established by the CPA, instead of being dealt with unilaterally and militarily. We are encouraged by the discussions held

on that issue during the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee yesterday, 15 December, and the prospective resolution of that dispute during the next Ceasefire Political Commission meeting. However, we need to emphasize that unilateral military action constitutes a threat to the CPA and must stop once and for all.

Restrictions on UNMIS freedom of movement remain a major challenge, notably in Southern Kordofan and Northern Abyei. I urge the Sudanese authorities to prevent such incidents and hold those responsible to account.

UNMIS is also experiencing long delays in the receipt of Sudanese visas for its personnel, including those most needed for the upcoming referendum. The Government of the Sudan currently has a backlog of 348 visa applications for UNMIS. We have taken this up both in Khartoum and here in New York. We urge the Government to clear the pending visa applications without delay.

Although the security situation in Southern Sudan remains relatively calm, it continues to be fragile. We also do not exclude the possibility that the political and security environment could become more tense during and after the referendum.

As the Council is aware, we are working on options for a possible augmentation of United Nations troops in the Sudan to prevent any deterioration in the security situation after the referendum and to increase our capacity to monitor possible ceasefire violations, as well as to protect civilians throughout the mission area. We continue to engage the parties on that issue. In the meantime, UNMIS is increasing its presence in hot spots, using its existing force, redeploying company-size additional troops to Abyei, Southern Kordofan and a new team site near the border between the states of Upper Nile and White Nile.

The integrated Joint Operations Centre in Khartoum and the Regional Operations Centre in Juba have been strengthened to enhance information collection and real-time analysis throughout the Mission area and to support both conflict prevention activities and rapid political, military and humanitarian reaction to crisis. We are grateful to the Russian Federation for agreeing to deploy four military helicopters, previously with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, to Juba. Their presence will contribute greatly to ensuring the Mission's mobility. As of today, the four helicopters are still in Entebbe, awaiting the permit from the Government of the Sudan to deploy to Juba, which, we understand, might come very soon.

While UNMIS continues those efforts, we must emphasize that the presence of United Nations troops by itself will not be enough to prevent a return to war, should widespread hostilities erupt. Only a demonstrated commitment by the parties to refrain from inflammatory statements, uphold the CPA ceasefire mechanisms and engage in dialogue to settle differences will succeed in maintaining peace.

While the Sudanese authorities bear the primary responsibility for the protection of their citizens, UNMIS has stepped up its protection activities through joint civil-military patrols and initiatives to foster reconciliation at the local level. The overall goal of the UNMIS protection strategy is, first, to prevent, reduce and, when necessary, stop violence against civilian populations in the Mission area; second, to ensure humanitarian access to vulnerable populations; and third, to assist both the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan to assume their primary responsibility to protect civilian populations.

To implement that strategy, it is essential that the Mission be able to identify vulnerable communities and individuals before disputes erupt or escalate. It is also important to ensure State responsibility at all levels -local, regional, national — to address those concerns through dialogue and in consultation with the communities. In light of that, UNMIS — while under the direct supervision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and benefiting from his direct engagement with the Government at the highest level of Sudanese authorities, as necessary — has decentralized its protection activities at state and regional levels.

Given the uncertainties of the coming months, the parties, the United Nations and the international community are preparing to prevent, to the extent possible, and to mitigate humanitarian crises. That includes efforts by humanitarian and development agencies to ensure that all population movements across the border are voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable. Returnees from Northern Sudan to Southern Sudan should be able to return in a manner that does not overwhelm the capacity of local communities to absorb them.

UNMIS and the United Nations country team have developed a referendum-related contingency plan for the period from November 2010 to June 2011. In the unlikely event that the referendum leads to large-scale violence, approximately 2.8 million people could be internally displaced and another 3.2 million people may be negatively affected by breakdowns in trade and social service delivery. In that scenario, up to $63 million may be required to provide emergency assistance to those in need. Similar plans are also being prepared by United Nations missions and other United Nations presences in neighbouring countries, particularly by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The outcomes of the referendum and negotiations on post-referendum issues will undoubtedly affect the United Nations presence in the Sudan after the conclusion of the CPA. UNMIS and the United Nations country team are examining possible future conflict dynamics in post-CPA Sudan, particularly in Southern Sudan, where needs for capacity-building and institutional development are paramount. We will make further reference to those issues and possible options for United Nations engagement, particularly in Southern Sudan, in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General to the Council.

At this crucial stage in the implementation of the CPA, we are encouraged by the continued commitment of both CPA partners to resolve outstanding differences in a peaceful manner. As the events in the early days of 2011 will be unique in the history of the Sudan, we continue to urge all CPA partners to intensify their efforts and provide support to all Sudanese in order to successfully hold the referendum and respect the choice made by the people by endorsing and implementing its outcome.

The President: I thank Mr. Le Roy for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan.

Mr. Mkapa: I am grateful for the opportunity to brief the Council in the Southern Sudan referendum as well as to provide clarification on the role of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan.

I was present in Nairobi when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed, and it is remarkable that we are about to witness the achievement of one of the Agreement's key milestones, the holding of the Southern Sudan referendum, in less than a month's time. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement brought peace to a great many people in the Sudan and allowed for the development of the country. Moreover, the Agreement brought relief to the countries and peoples of the region, which were also affected by the North-South conflict in the Sudan. That is no small achievement.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the presence of the representatives of the CPA parties who are with us this morning, on whose shoulders rests the responsibility for the successful conclusion of the implementation of the Agreement.

The registration of voters ahead of next month's referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan concluded eight days ago, with the exception of a few centres out of country, as Under-Secretary-General Le Roy just stated. The registration process was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner, despite time constraints and limitations in communications infrastructure and financial resources. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and its Bureau based in Juba are to be highly commended for overcoming the many difficulties they faced to conduct the voter registration exercise.

Our field reporting officers on the ground and we ourselves found the process to be generally transparent, with very few cases of rejections reported. No discernable pattern of irregularities were reported either. That should help prepare the ground for a credible referendum on 9 January 2011.

Both parties to the CPA have given important and unequivocal public assurances about respecting the outcome of the referendum. Leaders of both parties have also given assurances about the status of the Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South and that their rights and safety will be protected. As the campaign period gathers momentum, such messages of assurance by political leaders in both the North and the South should be reiterated in order to assuage anxiety among the population regarding the uncertainty of their future, regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

There has been no progress with regard to the holding of the Abyei referendum. The Abyei issue has

become part of the larger post-referendum negotiations led by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan. We commend the patience shown by the people of Abyei and we urge the parties to redouble their efforts to find a lasting solution to this difficult issue.

Let me conclude by sharing some views on how the Panel sees its role in the lead-up to the referendums. As the Secretary-General conveyed to the Council in September, the Panel's role is to monitor and assess the referendum processes for Southern Sudan and the Abyei area, including the political and security situation on the ground. The Panel will also engage the parties at the appropriate level to take corrective measures and, in close consultation with the Secretary-General, issue public statements on the referendums.

In our encounters with our interlocutors, we have stressed that we do not have a certification mandate. The Panel will focus on playing a good offices role on behalf of the Secretary-General. The Panel will liaise closely with international and national observer groups to ensure that we share as much valuable information as possible.

The President: I thank Mr. Mkapa for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mutrif Siddiq.

Mr. Siddiq (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, it is my pleasure, as we enter a new Hijri year and look forward to a new Gregorian year, to greet all the peace-loving peoples and States of the world. I also wish to congratulate the President for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month and for organizing this meeting on the Sudan at this critical and important time.

I also wish to assure the Council that we appreciate, understand and commend the role of the United States of America and other international partners in helping the parties to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). It is our hope that their role will continue to be constructive and positive, which will help us face and overcome the challenges of the final phase of the CPA and lead to permanent peace and stability in my country. I wish to assure the Council of the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to implementing its obligations, including the referendum on self-determination for Southern Sudan and the reaching of a final settlement on Abyei, in the hope that we will hold a referendum on Abyei as well. It is also our hope that our deliberations today will narrow the differences and viewpoints and that a settlement will be reached on all other pending issues.

Through the periodic reports submitted by the Government of the Sudan on the implementation of the CPA over the past five years, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the Council has seen how far we have come and what we have achieved via the mechanisms established by the CPA. We have shown our commitment to implementing all the provisions of the Agreement and to fulfilling its main objective of peace, which is why we now seek effective and sustainable solutions to all pending issues so that the brotherly relations that should obtain between the two parties after the end of the referendum, regardless of its results, shall come to pass.

It is worth noting that the Council has no doubt followed the referendum voter registration process and seen that it take place in a very smooth and transparent manner in the Sudan and in many countries of the diaspora. We will provide the Council with the final status of registration after the Referendum Commission completes its evaluation. The ease with which the registration took place, despite some violations here and there, should prove the commitment of the parties to conducting the referendum and respecting its results.

I am delighted to say that the support and assistance that the Referendum Commission received during the voter registration process will continue. We wish to assure the Council that our financial support for the Commission will not stop and that financing will not be an obstacle to the holding of the referendum. I wish to assure the Council that visas have been approved by the Commission and that the information just provided by Mr. Alain Le Roy should be updated.

As a cardinal pillar of the CPA and one to which we are committed, the referendum should not be considered to be an end in itself; rather, it is a means that should lead us to sustainable peace, stability and security. We are eager to see continued and intensified negotiations between the parties so that we can realize that objective.

As the Council knows, and as has been said before, the settlement of the issue of Abyei is foremost among the pending issues, and we are intensifying our efforts with our partners, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), to reach a settlement acceptable to the parties that will take into consideration the essential issues of citizenship and peaceful coexistence among the tribes of the region. It goes without saying that the settlement will not simply draw land borders or allocate wealth and resources. It will be a settlement between two of the major ethnic groups in the region, the Misseriya and Dinka Ngok tribes. The region has been a bridge connecting the North and South of the country throughout history through such coexistence and interaction between the tribes. That is why we must adopt a comprehensive approach in addressing it, apply wise practices and think positively in order to achieve lasting peace and stability.

The Council might be aware of the fact that two high-level meetings have been held in the past few weeks between the partners at the level of the President of the Republic and the first Vice-President, with the participation and support of former President Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel. Despite all these meetings, we have not yet reached a final solution that would ultimately satisfy the people of the region.

However, we must note the danger of any of the parties taking unilateral measures or decisions with respect to this conflict, as that could push the situation into an explosive confrontation, which none of us wish for. While we commend the Security Council, the European Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and the African Union for closely following the case of Abyei, we call on each and every one to pursue their efforts to reach a satisfactory settlement through negotiations. The high-level negotiations between the two parties are our main guarantee that this region will not become a battlefield or an area of future confrontation.

Our emphasis on settling the pre-referendum issues, such as Abyei, border demarcation and the total withdrawal of SPLM forces south of the 1956 borders, has not distracted us from dealing with post-referendum issues such as wealth, citizenship, security, water, foreign debt and assets, and international agreements and instruments.

As the Council is aware, since last year we have engaged in workshops and meetings with our partners, the most recent of which was held in Juba on 13 December. I personally attended that meeting. These meetings will be resumed in Khartoum on 18 December in order to resolve all the issues that the two parties have identified as priorities to be settled before the referendum.

We will also continue to consider the remaining issues in order to settle them before the end of the transitional period on 8 July 2011. At these meetings, we have discussed several issues in detail and made several proposals aimed at resolving these issues. We have also continued our efforts with our partners in the SPLM to achieve final settlements. We do so based on our belief in the inevitability of integration between the North and the South, regardless of whether there is unity or secession.

We note our agreement of 15 November regarding the framework agreement reached under the commendable mediation of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, headed by Mr. Thabo Mbeki. The salient feature of that agreement is to ensure that there is no return to war but that other strategic options are adopted to strengthen confidence and lay a solid foundation for optimal relations between the North and the South, as determined by the common factors that bring them together irrespective of the result of the referendum. Mr. Le Roy's comments regarding the protection of the oil-producing areas by joint units indicate that we are indeed moving in the right direction.

We firmly believe that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is the primary responsibility of the two parties. However, given the importance and delicacy of the current stage of negotiations and the complicated, interrelated and cross-cutting nature of the issues, a role must be played by influential countries, the international partners and the international community, in particular the Security Council, in order to build confidence between the parties and not sow seeds of suspicion and doubt between them.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement was indeed a historic achievement. It was not an easy achievement, and we should not squander it today in its final stages of implementation. We recall the difficult negotiations and the patience, dedication and wisdom that led us to accept the right of the people of Southern Sudan to

self-determination. We sacrificed so much for the Agreement, and it is therefore incumbent on us to preserve it as an achievement of which we are proud, as it put an end to war and conflict between the people of my country. In addition, we must seek to fulfil all the provisions of the Agreement in a way that will realize its main objectives.

Regarding the situation in Darfur, I would like to assure the Council that the Government of the Sudan, which considers a comprehensive political settlement to be its main strategic objective, continues to insist on continuing the negotiating process in order to achieve peace and stability for all parties. The Council has followed the position of the Government throughout all the negotiating rounds taking place in Doha, Qatar. At this time and in this Chamber, we wish to express our deep gratitude to Qatar and to commend the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Djibrill Bassolé. We hope that, during this month, we will reach a comprehensive framework agreement for peace in Darfur that will be open for signature to all the other movements when they accept peace and renounce war. We also thank all the countries of the region that have supported that mediation effort.

We hope that the Security Council will take more robust and firm action against the leaders of some of the rebel movements that continue to espouse the military option and to reject the political settlement, especially as set out in resolution 1679 (2006), in which the Council affirmed its willingness to take firm and effective measures against all those who work to obstruct peace. Four years have passed since the adoption of that resolution, and the Council has yet to send a strong message to those who refuse to renounce war and join the peace process in Doha. We heard just now, in the presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/28), encouraging signals that we hope will be a step in the right direction.

We must note that the security situation in Darfur has seen noticeable progress in terms of stability, security and the humanitarian aspect, despite some violations and irresponsible military actions, the abduction of and attacks against humanitarian workers and some members of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). These robberies and provocative, disruptive acts have forced the Sudanese Armed Forces to intervene to put an end to some of these violations, which targeted innocent civilians and imposed fines on them.

We must also note that some rebel movements recently moved some of their forces to Southern Sudan. We have informed our partners of this and are ready to work together to ensure that such acts are stopped so that the relationship between the parties will not be affected.

Despite all that, the humanitarian situation is considerably stable. We are cooperating fully with our brothers from specialized United Nations programmes and agencies in order to deliver assistance to those who need it in Darfur.

In that context, we must also refer to the coordination between the Government of the Sudan and UNAMID, undertaken through the Tripartite Mechanism, which includes the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union. That coordination has led to improvements in the deployment of UNAMID which, although it has not reached its full capacity, has greatly improved the security situation, facilitated the delivery of humanitarian assistance and served to reassure those civilians who opted to return to their homes through voluntary repatriation programmes.

As part of those efforts to strengthen security, stability and development in Darfur, on 16 September, the Government adopted a comprehensive integrated strategy for peace and stability in Darfur, of which the Council was duly informed. We are working to implement it in coordination with UNAMID, international partners and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel. The strategy represents a parallel national effort that is intended to complement, not replace, the Doha forum. One of its goals is to achieve a comprehensive political settlement and to strengthen security through preventive measures in coordination with UNAMID. It also aims to implement short- and long-term development projects to lay the necessary groundwork for displaced persons to voluntarily return to their homes and resume normal lives. The strategy places priority on providing justice and combating impunity in Darfur through all possible forums and mechanisms, including national reconciliation and compensation.

Another goal of the strategy is to restructure humanitarian operations, given that humanitarian relief is a temporary solution and should not constitute a

final settlement or become a way of life. The State has provided large sums of money to support the strategy in order to develop the infrastructure of Darfur. Those resources will serve encourage donors and attract regional and international support to realize the strategy's goals.

Before I conclude, allow me to mention that the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement is steadily moving forward. In that regard, we must commend the State of Kuwait, which recently hosted a conference on the reconstruction of Eastern Sudan, as well as the countries and organizations that participated. We also wish to thank all the donors that made pledges that exceeded $3 billion to support construction projects in Eastern Sudan. This is a model of regional, bilateral and international cooperation that should be adopted in similar situations.

I wish to reiterate my gratitude for the initiative to convene this meeting. I hope that our deliberations today will help both parties to address the pending issues in a peaceful and seamless manner that satisfies the requirements for peaceful coexistence, integration and communication between Northern and Southern Sudan, whether the choice is made for unity or secession.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Pagan Amum.

Mr. Amum: I am very grateful for the opportunity once again to address the Security Council and to put forward the views of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Southern Sudan. I also want to thank you, Madam President, and the United States of America for calling this meeting. This is an indication of the Council's continued support for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and of its determination to maintain peace and stability in the Sudan.

Since my last visit to the Council, we have witnessed the peaceful completion of the voter registration process for the Southern Sudan referendum. Over 3.6 million people registered in Southern Sudan, the North and among the diaspora, although registration in the North was disappointingly low, owing to the concerns and anxiety of Southern Sudanese living in Northern Sudan. Nonetheless, the completion of the registration process is an important step, and it could not have been done without the support of the United Nations and the international community.

We reiterate our call for the referendum to be conducted on time, on 9 January 2011, given that it is now possible to do so. We also call for its results to be respected and for the parties to the CPA — the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM — to fully cooperate to that end. The Government of Southern Sudan will spare no effort to ensure that the referendum takes place on time and in a peaceful environment. We continue to contribute a disproportionate share of the funds required by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. In that regard, we invite our partners in the Government of the Sudan to contribute the amounts to which they previously committed.

I wish to express the gratitude of the Government of Southern Sudan to the Russian Federation for supplying helicopters to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in order to support its capacity to provide logistical support for the conduct of the referendum. I must also reiterate our thanks to UNMIS, other United Nations agencies and the international community for the support they are continuing to provide to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. We welcome their continued engagement in that process. We call on the Council and on all Member States to respect, recognize and implement the choice of the people of Southern Sudan in the referendum, as that will be the only basis for maintaining peace.

In that context, we welcome the work of the monitoring Panel, which is led by President Mkapa, whose presence here today we appreciate. The work of the Panel to monitor the process and authenticate the referendums' results will ensure stability and a smooth transition to the next phase of the process.

We also welcome recent statements by President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir. As the leader of the country and of the National Congress Party, he has made a commitment to accept the results of the referendum whether the vote leads to secession or unity.

Of course, the referendum is only a milestone along the road to our shared goal of lasting peace and prosperity for all in the Sudan. We remain committed to a peaceful, stable and prosperous future for the people of the Sudan, whether as one country or as two separate States. We therefore share Council members' concerns

about the ongoing lack of progress in, and the slow process of, discussing post-referendum arrangements.

There is an urgent need to clearly define the terms of the relationship between Northern and Southern Sudan after the CPA interim period expires. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, we are grateful for the continued support of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, led by President Thabo Mbeki, and welcome his efforts to finalize a framework agreement that will lay out the general principles that will govern the future relationship between Southern and Northern Sudan as two sovereign States, if the choice of the people of Southern Sudan is separation. That will help guide North-South relations through the referendum period and set the stage for productive negotiations on all outstanding issues. We remain prepared to engage in negotiations at any time and in any location, and recommit ourselves today to spare no effort to reach agreement with our partners the NCP on all the matters before us.

When we last appeared before the Council (see S/PV.6425), we were hopeful that soon thereafter the parties would be able to reach agreement on the matter of Abyei. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of President Mbeki and his team, we have been unable to do so. We continue to see two possible options. The first would be to hold a referendum in Abyei, consistent with the terms of the CPA. It is still technically feasible to hold a referendum, which we believe could be organized relatively quickly given the size of the Ngok Dinka community in Abyei, if our NCP partners are willing to abide by the terms of the CPA. As we have stated many times, the referendum would be part of an arrangement giving clear guarantees to the Misseriya and other nomads of their right to graze and transit through the area. The second option would be to transfer Abyei to Southern Sudan by Sudanese presidential decree, just as it was transferred in 1905 by administrative order. Again, this would be done alongside an agreement on the rights of the Misseriya.

Any agreement on Abyei must respect earlier agreements, including the CPA and the tribunal ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of 2009, which was accepted in its entirety by both parties. That ruling has already granted a portion of the Ngok Dinka territory to the Misseriya, going beyond what was agreed under the process prescribed by the CPA itself. At this stage, the issue is not territory, but rather how to ensure that the needs of the Misseriya communities are best addressed and the rights of the Ngok Dinka people are respected.

We believe that it is possible to reach an agreement that addresses all concerns. However, we are worried that the Misseriya themselves may not yet be fully aware of the extent to which their rights would be protected, either following a referendum in which the Ngok Dinka community would exercise its right to decide whether to remain in the North or return to the South, or under an arrangement whereby Abyei would be transferred to the South. The Government of Southern Sudan is committed to reaching agreement on the question through negotiations. We stress the urgency of doing this quickly, particularly given the rapidly approaching referendum in Southern Sudan.

The Government of Southern Sudan shares the Council's concern about the situation in Darfur and the potential spillover effects on North-South relations of renewed military action there. We fully support the Darfur peace process and reiterate our call on all parties to re-engage in negotiations. The Government of Southern Sudan supports a comprehensive solution to the Darfur question, which must involve an inclusive, all-party process. An agreement between one party only and the Government in Khartoum does not promote this. Furthermore, there can be no military solution in Darfur. A resolution can come about only through political negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement that would lead the Sudan into a democratic transformation. There can be no stability through exclusion.

For its part, regardless of the outcome of the referendum, the Government of Southern Sudan has a clear interest in stability across the rest of the Sudan, including Darfur. Given our socio-economic interdependence with the North, we have an interest in promoting peace and stability in both the South and the North of the Sudan. We maintain contact with the parties to the conflict in Darfur in order to encourage them to negotiate an end to the war. We believe that all parties in Darfur should return to negotiations with the aim of establishing a comprehensive peace.

In this context, the Government of Southern Sudan would also welcome discussions with its partners in Khartoum to strengthen existing agreements on the provision of mutual security guarantees. These

should include commitments that both sides shall refrain from supporting military proxies or other armed groups that promote instability in either region. On behalf of the SPLM, I clearly state here that we have no interest in supporting armed groups, and would expect the National Congress Party to declare the same in relation to proxy groups that it may be supporting in the South. Given the high stakes of the coming period, both parties must commit to the maintenance of stability and peace.

I thank Council members for their ongoing concern and interest at this critical time in our history. I thank you sincerely, Madame President, for holding this meeting and for your own personal interest in and support for peace in the Sudan. I wish to conclude by saying clearly to the Council that, although we have made much progress, the outcome we all desire is still not yet completely assured, but that, with the Council's help and continued support, we can achieve sustainable peace in the Sudan. The Security Council must remain vigilant at this critical moment of our history.

The President: I thank Mr. Amum for his statement.

I now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I thank His Excellency President Mkapa for his report and Mr. Le Roy for his briefing. I also welcome the presence in the Chamber this morning of Their Excellencies Mr. Siddiq and Mr. Amum, and thank them for their positive statements.

As we enter the last few weeks before the referendum on self-determination for Southern Sudan, it is vital for the parties to fulfil their commitment to full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and for the international community to remain united in its support. We welcome the commitments we have heard from the parties today.

We also welcome the steady progress of preparations towards the 9 January Southern Sudan referendum. In particular, we are encouraged by the process of registration, which ended in-country on 8 December. We also welcome the assessment of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan that the registration process was transparent and free from organized manipulation and that it has provided the basis for a credible referendum. We urge the parties to ensure that this good progress is maintained.

Nevertheless, some very important issues remain to be resolved. In particular, we are disturbed by the lack of progress on Abyei. Tensions there continue to rise in the absence of a political settlement. We urge both parties to show flexibility and leadership in coming to an agreement on this as soon as possible. We also remind both parties of the urgent need to come to agreement on other issues of fundamental and long-term importance to both North and South. It is particularly important to reach agreement on citizenship, which will reassure the Sudanese people in both North and South that their rights will be respected whatever the outcome of the referendum. In addition, we continue to have concerns about human rights issues in the Sudan more generally, and we stress the need for fundamental rights for all citizens, including women, to be respected.

We recognize that, as Minister Siddiq said this morning, the Sudanese parties have come far over the past five years and will continue to need to work together for the peace and prosperity of all Sudanese people, whatever the outcome of the referendum. We note the firm commitment that the parties have made not to return to violence, and we strongly urge them, in line with that commitment, to respect each other's security and refrain from any action that seeks to undermine that. It is more important than ever to show restraint at this critical time.

Finally, I would like briefly to address the situation in Darfur. It is vital that this Council does not lose sight of events there. We must work intensively with all parties involved towards a peaceful and inclusive political settlement and justice and reconciliation in the region. We welcome the role played by Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé and the support of the Government of Qatar, and we urge all rebel groups to join the peace process without delay and without preconditions. This Council should be prepared to consider firm measures against those who refuse to do so.

In that context, we are concerned by the resumption of hostilities between the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan Liberation Army Minni Minawi faction, and we call upon both sides to uphold their commitment to peace.

We remain deeply concerned about the security situation in Darfur, including the recent violence in Khor Abeche and other incidents resulting in the displacement of civilians. Access for humanitarian workers and peacekeepers must be improved in Darfur, and kidnappings must come to an end.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): I thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and the Chairman of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, His Excellency President Benjamin Mkapa, for their comprehensive briefings. I also thank the representatives of the Government of the Sudan, Mr. Mutrif Siddiq, and of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Mr. Pagan Amum, for their statements.

The full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) remains key to peace and stability in the Sudan and the whole region. There have been important achievements since the signing of the CPA, and we commend the parties on those aspects of the Agreement that have been implemented to date. Uganda welcomes the commitments made by the parties to resolve the outstanding issues. It is essential that those issues — especially Abyei — be resolved for the sake of peace, security and stability in the Sudan.

One issue that requires continued leadership is ensuring that the referendum in Southern Sudan is held on time and is conducted in a free and fair atmosphere and that the outcome credible and respected. We welcome the continued commitments expressed by the parties to holding the referendum and to respecting the results.

We welcome the successful conclusion of voter registration on 8 December. We were encouraged by the high turnout of eligible voters for registration. We encourage the Referendum Commission to ensure that other steps in the process are carried out in a timely and transparent manner.

Uganda considers it essential that a workable agreement be reached on post-referendum arrangements. In that regard, we commend the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Mbeki, for its work. The Panel's facilitation of the negotiations remains important for their successful and timely completion.

The support of the international community remains crucial during this period. The region is committed to supporting the parties. The recent summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), held on 23 November in Addis Ababa, reiterated the commitment of IGAD member States to support the full implementation of the CPA, but it also emphasized the need for continued support of the Sudan during the post-referendum period for peace, stability, democracy and development in the Sudan.

Finally, Uganda appreciates the work of the Secretary-General's Panel on Referenda in the Sudan, led by President Mkapa, and we also commend the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for the good work done in the Sudan.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Le Roy, President Mkapa, the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs of the Sudan Mr. Mutrif Siddiq, and the Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Mr. Pagan Amum, for their presence and their presentations.

Now, a few weeks before the referendum, everything should be in place for the voting to take place on the scheduled date. The authorities of Khartoum and Juba, the Referendum Commission and all stakeholders must make every possible effort so that that vital stage in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement can be completed.

The concern about the preparations must be assuaged. In that regard, we welcome the commitment made by the parties on 15 November not to return to violence to settle their disputes. However, the bombings by the Government of the Sudan on the border of the states of Bahr el Ghazal and South Darfur in recent days, which caused displacements of the civilian populations, are of concern. We call on the parties to maintain their mutual trust and to immediately stop their violence.

The voting process must be fair and transparent. The deployment to the Sudan of several election observer missions, of the European Union in particular, will make it possible to have indicators of the conditions in which the referendum is taking place. It is up to the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda, led by President Mkapa — to whose work I would like to pay tribute — to provide the international community with a clear view of the overall referendum proceedings.

We took note of the Panel's encouraging statement at the end of the registration period. However, we also noted the Panel's concerns with regard to the people's committees in the North, which apparently dissuaded some potential voters. We are paying close attention to the observations and future conclusions of Mr. Mkapa's Panel.

Preparing for the referendum is also preparing for its aftermath. We pay tribute to the efforts of President Mbeki and of the African Union's High-Level Implementation Panel for holding discussions on the issue of Abyei and the post-referendum matters. However, we are concerned by the lack of agreement at this stage on Abyei. We encourage the parties to continue their efforts and to make, at the appropriate time, the necessary concessions in order to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

We have been informed about the admission to hospital of Special Representative Haile Menkerios. Allow me here once again to commend his work at the head of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and to wish him a good recovery. We encourage UNMIS to continue its efforts, and we welcome the fact that it has redeployed its staff to strengthen its presence in areas of potential tension.

In the current context, we must not forget Darfur. The war between the Sudanese armed forces and the rebel groups continues, as demonstrated by the deadly fighting in Khor Abeche on 10 and 11 December, which caused more than 10 thousand civilians to be displaced. A political solution is essential. In that context, the Council must continue to provide its support to the joint mediation efforts in Doha. It is unacceptable for the two main rebel groups to continue to remain outside that process. We call upon them to rejoin the discussions without delay or preconditions.

For its part, UNAMID must continue its efforts to protect civilians, pursuant to its mandate. We urge the force to step up its efforts to strengthen its position and to implement, at all levels and in all circumstances, its strategy for protecting civilians. In that respect, progress is still possible and necessary. Obstacles to the force's free movement must also be lifted.

I will conclude by reminding members, a few days after Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo's worrying briefing to the Council, that there can be no peace without justice in Darfur. The crimes committed there cannot go unpunished. We therefore call for cooperation by all States with the International Criminal Court pursuant to Council resolution 1593 (2005).

Mr. Nishida (Japan): I would like to thank His Excellency President Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, and Under-Secretary-General Le Roy for their insightful briefings. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Honourable Mutrif Siddiq, State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, and the Honourable Pagan Amum, Minister of Peace and Comprehensive Peace Agreement Implementation of the Government of Southern Sudan, for their statements.

Japan, at the outset, welcomes the fact that the registration process for the Southern Sudan referendum was concluded peacefully in the country. We also highly value the commitments by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) parties to conduct the Southern Sudan referendum on 9 January next year as planned and to respect its results regardless of the outcome.

The international community is closely watching developments in the Sudan. However, the most important element is political will and commitment on the part of the parties concerned, and I trust that the Sudanese parties can and will maintain their roles in that regard. It is encouraging that the African Union (AU) and subregional organizations are making significant contributions as well.

Japan also appreciates the work of President Mkapa and President Mbeki, Chair of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel, in support of the efforts of the CPA parties.

To alleviate possible concerns and anxiety among the people in the South, the population should be informed in advance regarding the entire process and expected time period between voting, counting and announcement of the final results. It is also advisable that the Panel on the Referenda consult beforehand with the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC), the CPA parties, President Mbeki, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and other referendum observers concerning arrangements after the voting has been completed. Japan is ready to assist in the conduct of a free and fair referendum by dispatching its referendum monitors at the end of this month.

Japan welcomes the intensive high-level consultations between the CPA parties to discuss the Abyei issue and other post-referendum issues, including citizenship and natural resources. We urge both parties to accelerate those discussions in order to resolve pending issues.

It is essential to maintain the good relationship between North and South beyond the interim period of the CPA in order to uphold stability in the Sudan. To that end, the international community should continue to assist both parties. For its part, Japan has decided to make a new disbursement of approximately $70 million for humanitarian assistance.

Concerning Darfur, Japan reiterates its call for Darfuri armed groups, such as the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Abdul Wahid faction, to participate in the negotiations under the auspices of the Doha peace process and engage constructively on behalf of the people of Darfur. We are concerned by recent incidents, which have generated further displacement of internally displaced persons. It is our hope that that will not affect North-South relations. The security situation in Darfur and along the border are matters of great concern. We encourage UNMIS and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to maintain their firm commitment to the protection of civilians.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): My delegation is grateful for the briefings that we have heard this morning and welcomes this morning's constructive discussion. We believe that, whatever the outcome of the referendum may be, it will not only determine the future and status of the Southern Sudan, but will also impact significantly on the overall political situation in the region.

The Russian Federation hopes that the results of the referendum will prepare the groundwork for the post-conflict settlement process and the further sustainable development of the Sudan. We welcome the strong commitment by the Government of the Sudan to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the peaceful and timely holding of the referendum on self-determination for the South of the country.

My delegation notes the parties' peaceful and orderly conduct of the voter registration process for the referendum. We agree with the assessment of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan that completion of that process will lay the foundation for the voting on 9 January 2011.

The Russian Federation will respect whatever choice is made by the people of the Southern Sudan, but it is important that outsiders not prejudge the results of the referendum. We must bear in mind that the counting process for the referendum is likely to take a certain amount of time. My country is counting on the constructive role that the Secretary-General's Panel is called upon to play in that respect. We welcome the ongoing dialogue among the Sudanese parties on a broad range of issues of importance in the post-referendum period.

For the Russian Federation, the matter of priority is settlement of the Abyei situation. We are convinced that the Sudanese parties are capable of resolving the broad range of disagreements that have arisen among them, while counting on the willingness of the international community to provide all necessary support.

Future cooperation among the Sudanese parties is key to the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the six-month transition period following the referendum. What is most important is to maintain peace in the Sudan, thus guaranteeing stability in the subregion. Of course, the chances of achieving such an outcome would improve if a general political agreement in Darfur could be reached as soon as possible.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): I should first like to thank President Mkapa for his comprehensive briefing and also Under-Secretary-General Le Roy. We are pleased by the presence of State Minister Siddiq and Mr. Amum, Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), and thank them for their presentations.

Last week, Austrian Foreign Minister Spindelegger visited the Sudan and had talks with senior representatives of the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and with President Mbeki. Minister Spindelegger came back with the understanding that both sides are committed to holding the referendum on time, but that the overall process of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation and the political situation in the North and the South remain fragile.

Austria therefore considers it important for the international community to send positive messages: to Khartoum that there is a chance to enter into a new phase of relations with the international community, once the CPA has been implemented; and to the South that the international community is ready to assist with capacity-building, and humanitarian and development cooperation, provided of course that the SPLM-leadership does not take any action that could lead to a military escalation. At the same time, more specifically, Austria is convinced that there will be a strong need for the United Nations and other international actors, such as the European Union, to be actively engaged in peacebuilding in the south in the post-referendum period, and also in the north if so desired.

We welcome the substantive progress in the preparations for the referendum, in particular the completion of the voter registration and its peaceful and orderly conduct. In that regard, we highly appreciate and fully support the work of the high-level monitoring Panel. The European Union has deployed an election observation mission, which also observed the registration process.

With regard to post-referendum arrangements, we are particularly concerned about the inability to resolve the problem of citizenship, as that could produce a dangerous hotspot. Austria has offered technical expertise in the area of citizenship. Upon the invitation of the parties, we discussed that offer with interlocutors in the north and the south in October, as well as during the recent visit by our Foreign Minister. Nevertheless, further progress is needed, in particular in the preparations for the referendum in Abyei. Preparations also have to take place for the popular consultations in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states. Strengthening the rule of law, ending impunity and ensuring human rights for all will be important in that process in order to guarantee lasting peace and stability. The full inclusion of women in those processes is also of very great importance.

On Monday, 13 December, the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union expressed its readiness to step up engagement with the Government of the Sudan and to establish a long-term dialogue. The European Union and its member States, including Austria of course, attach importance to finding a lasting solution to the Sudan's debt burden. At the Foreign Affairs Council, the European Union committed to examine closely possible support for an international debt relief effort.

In view of the tense security situation in the south caused by rebel movements, military activity and an influx of people moving from north to south, we call on the leadership of the SPLM and the NCP to avert conflict, ensure regional stability and protect civilians. Contingency planning by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) is important. The freedom of movement is crucial for UNMIS to fulfil its tasks.

Austria strongly supports the facilitation of the African Union High-Level Panel, under the leadership of President Thabo Mbeki, as well as the work of Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur Djibrill Bassolé. We urge all parties to work on ceasing hostilities and on making progress in the Doha negotiations.

We particularly condemn the abduction of peacekeepers and humanitarian workers and the violence against civilians in and around camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). In that regard, we welcome the release of three Latvian nationals working for the World Food Programme. We demand the immediate release of a Hungarian peacekeeper in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). We urge all parties to allow free access to everyone in need of humanitarian assistance.

UNAMID has an important role to play in protecting civilians. It needs the full support of the Government of the Sudan and all other parties involved. The safe and voluntary return of a high number of IDPs in Darfur must be ensured. We strongly support all efforts to strengthen mechanisms to combat impunity and promote justice, accountability and reconciliation.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for organizing this important meeting on the Sudan. Let me also thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for his briefing on the preparations for the referendums to be held in the Sudan on 9 January 2011.

Nigeria welcomes the presence here of former President Benjamin Mkapa, whose new role will be to chair the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan. We have great confidence in his ability to discharge the duties entrusted to him. Let me also welcome His Excellency Mr. Mutrif Siddiq, State

Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of the Sudan, as well as Mr. Pagan Amum, Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). I thank them for their respective perspectives.

The various accounts we have heard this morning are not only reassuring, they also provide affirmation of the willingness and commitment of the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) vis-à-vis their obligations. Indeed, the statements suggest that the preparations for the conduct of free, fair and credible referendums are on track, in particular in southern Sudan. The conclusion of the voter registration exercise was therefore a significant milestone, for which we commend both the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau.

In the current circumstances, there is an obligation to encourage the parties to the CPA to dissipate the climate of fear and distrust and create confidence in the referendums, which are just 24 days away. The first step towards achieving that is for the parties to cease all hostilities and military activities, in particular the recent bombings in the Kiir River Valley. The parties to the CPA, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/National Congress Party and the SPLM, must redouble their efforts and remain committed to the full implementation of the Agreement.

The negotiations launched on post-referendum arrangements following the memorandum of understanding of 23 June, with the help of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, led by President Thabo Mbeki, should by now be producing substantive outcomes. Indeed, the four working groups set up to organize the negotiations should intensify their engagement on border demarcation, citizenship, wealth-sharing, economic cooperation, grazing rights and security.

The appointment of the Abyei Referendum Commission and the commencement of the popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states are also important, in particular as both processes are provided for in the CPA. We urge the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission to expeditiously complete the printing of ballot papers for the exercise in a transparent manner in order to bolster confidence in the process. It is important that clarity is achieved as soon as possible on the post-referendum status of southerners in the north and northerners in the south. The rhetoric should be turned down.

Both parties have an obligation to seek an equitable and mutually beneficial mode of peaceful coexistence, either in unity or separately. The United Nations and the international community have a prominent role to play in ensuring free and fair referendums and a suitable outcome. It is also critical that we define the framework for interaction and dialogue between the north and the south before the referendums are held. We urge the parties to remove all restrictions on the movement of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

On Darfur, Nigeria welcomes the intensification of the discussions to reach a peace agreement. It is encouraging that the final peace agreement between the Sudanese Government and the rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) will be signed on 19 December. We commend Joint Chief Mediator Bassolé in that regard and urge both the LJM and the Sudan Liberation Movement, led by Abdel Wahid el-Nur, to rejoin the peace process. We are pleased that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur is speeding up the necessary steps to establish the ceasefire commission and the joint monitoring mechanism.

Finally, we thank Member States that have committed their troops and those that have provided logistical and technical expertise. That will go a long way in helping to solve some of the logistical problems currently confronting the preparations for the referendum in the Sudan.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): My delegation would like to thank you, Madam President, for having organized this meeting just a few weeks before the referendum to be held in Southern Sudan on 9 January 2011. We also thank President Mkapa and Mr. Alain Le Roy for their briefings, which usefully addressed the three main concerns relating to the question of Southern Sudan: the referendum process, the developments in the negotiations on post-referendum arrangements, and the ongoing discussions among the parties on the status of Abyei.

We welcome the presence of Minister Mutrif Siddiq of the Sudan and of the Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Mr. Pagan Amum.

The voter registration process, which was carried out in peaceful and harmonious conditions, was completed on 8 December. That marked a decisive turning point in the preparations for the 9 January 2011 referendum. It is also proof of the will of both parties to pursue the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Gabon welcomes those steps and encourages the parties to continue working in that direction.

That positive momentum, which has been reinforced by the preparations, leads us to believe that there will be a credible, transparent and free referendum and that its results will be accepted by all. We know that we will be able to count on the leadership of President Mkapa, and we reiterate our support for him.

However, we are concerned by the difficulties the Referendum Commission is encountering in securing its budget. My delegation urges the parties to fulfil their financial obligations in that area, so as to enable the Commission to fulfil its mission.

With regard to post-referendum arrangements, the problem posed by the serious delays in the negotiations — especially with regard to the complete demarcation of the North-South border, the freedom of movement of the population, and the issues of citizenship and wealth-sharing — show the scale of the task still ahead of us, if we want to achieve lasting peace in the Sudan. Gabon is pleased to see that the efforts of President Mbeki have led to the establishment of a framework that can guide discussions on those important issues.

However modest that progress may be, it should be supported. In that context, we encourage the parties to reach an agreement on those issues as soon as possible in order to ensure continued cooperation between the North and South, whatever the outcome of the referendum.

The negotiations on the Abyei referendum are at a standstill. There are too many areas of disagreement and time is running out. Gabon still believes that those talks must be intensified. The initiative of President Mbeki to regularly bring together the leaders from Khartoum and Juba to discuss the issues should be welcomed. My delegation strongly supports that strategy. We are convinced that a definitive agreement on Abyei could serve as a catalyst for overcoming the other lingering challenges. The Council must continue encouraging the parties in their efforts aimed at overcoming those challenges.

I could not conclude without praising the important role played by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in the security, political and humanitarian sectors. By ensuring the protection and freedom of movement of populations, the Mission has been able to create an environment favourable to the peace process. We encourage the parties to cooperate fully with UNMIS.

We cannot remain indifferent to the situation in Darfur, where the peace process has been further delayed and remains without results. Gabon supports the joint efforts of the United Nations and African Union to restore peace in the region. We welcome the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to take an active role in those efforts. We also encourage the rebel movement to participate in the peace process.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I warmly welcome President Benjamin Mkapa and thank him for today's briefing and for his important work at the head of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan. I ask him to kindly convey our appreciation to his fellow panellists as well.

I note with appreciation the statements made by Minister Mutrif Siddiq and Mr. Pagan Amum and extend my thanks to Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for his detailed and comprehensive briefing.

We welcome the recent positive developments in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) The voter registration for the Southern Sudan referendum has been completed in a peaceful manner and seems to have reached a substantial portion of Southern Sudanese voters.

Statements and efforts have been made and are being made by both sides to prevent the use of force to settle disputes between them, including an agreement to employ Joint Integrated Units in the protection of oil fields. Although slow, negotiations on post-referendum issues are progressing, and the CPA parties seem to remain engaged in them.

However, there remain important concerns, such as insufficient funding for the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the recent instability in the north of Bahr el Ghazal and the mounting tensions in Abyei.

In Darfur, there are also reasons for concern. It is worrisome, for instance, that the Darfur Peace Agreement has been further eroded with the resumption of hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Mini Minawi. Also to be lamented are the continued hostilities between other parties, as well as restrictions to humanitarian access. Those and other concerns must be urgently and properly addressed by the parties, so that the referenda can take place in an atmosphere where there is at least a minimum level of political and security stability.

We are confident that the Sudanese leadership will rise to the challenge of navigating the difficult waters of the coming weeks and bringing Sudan safely ashore. That requires, first and foremost, that all possible measures be taken to hold a timely, free and fair referendum in Southern Sudan and implement its results. That is the foundation for sustainable peace in Sudan and is therefore indispensable.

Also key is to find a peaceful solution for Abyei. We call on the parties to show maximum flexibility and statesmanship in addressing the issue.

Ensuring the safety and respecting the rights of minorities in the North and the South is of utmost importance. The people of Sudan have the right to safety and peace.

Lastly, the parties will need patience and courage to successfully negotiate a number of key post-referendum arrangements.

In all those demanding tasks, the United Nations role is an important one. We hope that all Sudanese parties will continue to cooperate with this Organization. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is also crucial. We reiterate our support for the work of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel.

As this is probably the last time the Council will meet in the presence of the CPA parties before the referendum, I hope those central messages will be heeded and fully taken into account when they make decisions in the next weeks that will shape the future of Sudan and the subregion. We are confident that they fully understand their important responsibility and are willing and able to play their historic role as peacemakers.

Ms. Čolaković (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I wish to join other delegations in thanking Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy and President Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, for their comprehensive and informative briefings. We welcome the participation of His Excellency Mr. Mutrif Siddiq, State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of the Sudan, and Mr. Pagan Amum, Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

I would like to reiterate Bosnia and Herzegovina's support for the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). At this stage, it is critical that the CPA parties redouble their efforts to fulfil their commitments and obligations.

Bearing in mind the tight referendum calendar, it is of the utmost importance to get all procedural work finished in a timely manner. We therefore call upon the parties to prevent any further delays in the referendum process. With regard to the resolution of the issue of Abyei, we are concerned that the parties have not yet agreed over the eligibility of voters.

As far as the post-referendum process is concerned, the establishment of working groups on wealth-sharing, citizenship, security and international legal instruments, as well as the anticipated establishment of a joint secretariat for negotiations, are positive steps. However, the process should be conducted more expeditiously.

We welcome the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union Panel in facilitating and intensifying the negotiations between the parties on outstanding issues. It is essential that the parties continue dialogue in a spirit of compromise in order to close the differences on substantial CPA issues, including borders, revenue sharing, citizenship and Abyei.

We commend the assistance and engagement of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in the process of preparing and conducting the referendums, as well as its technical and logistical support to the process. We are encouraged by the contingency planning of UNMIS to address challenges that may arise during this critical time.

Finally, Bosnia and Herzegovina fully supports the efforts made by UNMIS in the protection of civilians. In that regard, we call upon both parties to remove all restrictions on UNMIS's freedom of movement and to allow UNMIS to exercise its mandate.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): Over the past five years, the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) have worked together peacefully to address their issues and take this historic rapprochement forward. There have been successes and there have been failures, but through the ups and downs the parties have stayed the course and, for the most part, stability has prevailed. We commend the parties for their commitment to peace and the courage they have shown in difficult circumstances.

We have come to the final stage of CPA implementation. At this point, all efforts must focus on ensuring that the referendums in Southern Sudan and Abyei are free, fair, transparent, credible and held on time and in a peaceful manner. These points are all crucial, since a result that is legitimately contested will be controversial not only in the Sudan, but also in the eyes of international public opinion. In this context, we welcome the conclusion of the voter registration process.

On the other hand, once the process is concluded properly, all parties concerned should respect the outcomes of the referendums. Turkey welcomes the very high-level statements made in that regard in recent days. We also welcome the political commitment made by the parties to finding peaceful solutions to all outstanding matters, never again resorting to war, and not undermining one another's security. These are all very important political pronouncements and must be followed through.

The future of the Sudan is now in the hands of the Sudanese. They will make their choice at the referendums, but whatever the outcome of the voting, all Sudanese people, regardless of their race or religion and be they in the North or the South, will continue to be interdependent. The need to find solutions that ensure peaceful coexistence among diverse communities will not change after January; indeed, it will become more immediate. That is why comprehensively addressing all post-referendum arrangements is crucial, and we welcome the progress already made in this regard. We encourage the parties to continue to engage on these issues after the referendums as well.

Abyei is a crucial issue, and a negotiated, balanced and viable solution must be found. The parties also have to provide ongoing reassurances that the rights of all vulnerable populations at this sensitive time will be safeguarded. The international community and the United Nations stand ready to support all these efforts, but ultimately peace must come from within. No amount of outside support can replace or substitute for the political will of the Sudanese stakeholders themselves to pave the way to a peaceful future.

With regard to Darfur, Turkey condemns all attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. We urge all rebel movements in Darfur to join the peace process in Doha without further delay and without preconditions. The humanitarian situation cannot be addressed properly until a steady state of security is attained, and that will be impossible so long as rebel groups prefer military aggression to political dialogue. There have to be real consequences for rebel groups that propagate conflict. Intransigence cannot be accepted. Turkey fully supports the African Union/United Nations joint mediation effort.

It is not only the Sudan that is rapidly approaching a critical juncture; the resolve of the international community to maintaining peace and security will also be tested in the days ahead. We have in place a multitude of mechanisms, processes and structures, as well as high-level engagement. Translating that high level of effort into success will not be easy. The CPA is not just a series of timelines that need to be met; it is a political arrangement that is most likely leading to the break-up of a very large country and its peoples into two. This will be a potentially traumatic experience, the benefits of which may become apparent only in the long term.

Having come so far, we must not now underestimate the challenges that lie ahead in the post-CPA period, including with regard to the massive task of State-building in the Southern Sudan. In the final analysis, the Security Council's main responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security. We hope that its continued political involvement in the process will ultimately be helpful in advancing that essentially important goal.

In closing, let me express Turkey's ongoing commitment to peace and stability in the Sudan and the region, and our full support for the invaluable efforts exerted by the United Nations and the African Union.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I thank Mr. Le Roy for his extensive briefing. I

join previous speakers in thanking Chairman Mkapa for his briefing and his colleagues for their efforts in the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan. I also thank Minister Siddiq and Mr. Amum for their statements.

Only a few weeks remain until the deadline set out by the leaders of the Sudan in the historic 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to hold a referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan. Earlier deadlines have been met thanks to the cooperation of the parties to the CPA and the outstanding efforts of international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States.

The completion of the voter registration process has been a positive step, accompanied by other processes that have taken place. That reflects the Sudanese leadership's commitment to the people and to the international community not to have any recourse to violence, to respect the provisions of the CPA and to respect the results of the referendum. Those commitments have been reaffirmed on many occasions.

While paying tribute to those efforts and to the sacrifices made by all parties, we appeal today more than ever for a continuing commitment to those processes, which have put an end to a decades-long war that has had many victims and caused destruction and disasters. We are all aware of the high price paid by all. Let us hope that there is no return to war. We call upon the international community to continue to support the Sudan, to understand its needs and to provide it with political and economic assistance. There are many issues that need to be followed up, including, of course, the status of Abyei, post-referendum period issues, such as citizenship, distribution of oil resources, water and the debt burden.

The referendum is not and should not be an end in itself. Coexistence and cooperation between the North and the South must continue in all circumstances, whatever the outcome of the referendum. It is our firm hope that the referendum will take place fairly and peacefully, allowing people to determine their own future.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts of Qatar, which has been hosting the peace talks on Darfur. It is our hope that all parties will take part in those negotiations in order to achieve a final settlement, which has been long awaited and which we earnestly hope for.

As we approach the new year, we should acknowledge the many electoral deadlines that States in the region will be meeting. We understand the close relationships among those deadlines and other important dates, as well as the importance of eliminating violence perpetrated by the Lord's Resistance Army. We call for the implementation of border security agreements reached between countries of the region, such as that between the Sudan and Chad, because they can only help stability in the region.

We would also like to pay tribute to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. We reassert the need to ensure that there is agreement by all parties before there is an increase in the international forces contingents. We wish to pay tribute to the efforts of Mr. Mbeki, Mr. Mkapa, Mr. Gambari, Mr. Bassolé and other players and States in these critical and fateful times that the Sudan is going through.

Mr. Yang Tao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): It is encouraging that today the Council members are joined by the representatives of Northern and Southern Sudan, Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Mr. Mkapa to deliberate on important issues concerning the Sudan.

Maintaining peace, stability and development in the Sudan is in the interest the Sudanese people. It is also conducive to peace and development in the region and on the African continent. Since the Council held a high-level meeting on the Sudan last month (see S/PV.6425), the peace process in the Sudan continues to make progress. Voter registration for the referendum in Southern Sudan has concluded smoothly. We commend Northern and Southern Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations Secretariat for their efforts to that end.

We hope that Northern and Southern Sudan will retain their momentum, accelerate preparations for the referendums and ensure that the referendums are conducted in a peaceful, free, transparent and fair manner, in compliance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We call on the international community to create favourable conditions for the referendums and refrain from prejudging the outcome.

No party should take any unilateral action. No matter what the outcome might be, peace and stability in the Sudan and the region should be ensured. China hopes that the North and the South will cherish the hard-won peace, continue to dialogue and consult as equals and reach an early agreement on border demarcation, Abyei, wealth-sharing and other outstanding issues. That is of great significance to the long-term peace and stability of the Sudan and the region.

China believes that achieving substantive results at an early date in the Darfur political process and reaching a comprehensive political agreement represent the fundamental guarantee for long-term peace, stability and calm in Darfur. Without a robust political process there will be no peace or stability in Darfur, and neither will there be protection of civilians, humanitarian assistance, economic recovery or reconstruction. We once again urge the armed groups outside of the Doha political process to join the peace talks immediately, without any preconditions.

Mr. Puente (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): We too would like to thank Mr. Le Roy and Mr. Mkapa for their very valuable briefings. We would like to particularly welcome the presence of Mr. Mutrif Siddiq and Mr. Pagan Amum with us here today.

Only a few days before the date set for fulfilling one of the key provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the situation still presents significant challenges for the parties and for the international community, as we have heard. We think that the parties have a great advantage because, thanks to the extensive work of important national and international actors, they have been able to identify the specific steps necessary to prevent a return to armed conflict, and they have established the necessary mechanisms for dialogue to guarantee understanding between them.

However, despite encouraging progress, we believe that further efforts are still required to make progress on some fundamental issues.

Without any doubt the immediate priority is holding the referendum on the date set in the Agreement. The completion of voter registration was undoubtedly another encouraging step, and it means we must continue the remaining preparations urgently. Full funding of the Referendum Commission is essential at this stage of the process, and we therefore reiterate our call for parties to fulfil their commitments in that regard.

The referendum and its results must be part of this process and must be absolutely transparent so as to be a convincing reflection of the will of the population of the South. In that context we believe that the role of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan is of exceptional relevance, and we thus reiterate our full support for and trust in Mr. Mkapa and the other members of the Panel.

The lack of an agreement on the situation in Abyei is a source of concern because of the volatility it represents for the whole process.

We must by no means overlook the need to establish the bases for post-referendum arrangements, which will be essential to ensure a peaceful transition in the short term and stable relations in the long term.

We would also like to reiterate that the United Nations and the international community must be fully prepared to react expeditiously in any scenario. Although the outlook is encouraging it is still uncertain, and we must remain alert, ready to offer needed assistance and to safeguard the well-being of the civilian population.

We must not lose sight of the situation in Darfur, where conditions on the ground remain worrying, especially with regard to the security situation. We stress once again that it is urgent for hostilities to end and for all parties to the conflict to return to the negotiating table.

To conclude, we would like to stress that, given the difficulties foreseen in the next few weeks, we should repeat our call for calm and prudence. We believe that if the leaders of the Sudan can maintain those virtues, they will make a very valuable contribution to maintaining the stability that their citizens have been calling for these past five years and call for just as forcefully today.

The President: I will now make some remarks in my capacity of representative of the United States.

Let me join others in thanking Under-Secretary-General Le Roy, Chairman Mkapa, Minister Siddiq and Secretary General Amum for their participation today.

In recent months, the Council has shown unprecedented unity in supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The

international community and the members of the Council must continue to speak with one voice on the Sudan or risk creating opportunities for spoilers. With the support of the United Nations and the international community, the referendum registration process has concluded peacefully and credibly. A successful referendum for Southern Sudan on 9 January will be critical to long-term peace and stability in the Sudan. Registration was an important step towards that goal. The effective completion of registration in the Sudan indicates that polling can and must be concluded on schedule.

As we have been reminded today, the status of Abyei remains unresolved. The Chair of the African Union's High-level Implementation Panel, President Mbeki, has been working actively with the CPA parties to find a way forward on this important issue. The United States fully supports his efforts. Any resolution regarding the future of the Abyei area must respect the legally affirmed rights of the people of that region, and it must be reached with the consent of both parties.

We also face additional upcoming challenges, including the effective conduct of the Southern Sudan referendum itself. We urge both sides to ensure a transparent, safe and unobstructed environment for campaigning and polling. We urge the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to honour their financial commitments to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau as quickly as possible. This funding is essential to the conduct of the referendum.

The parties must also settle other outstanding CPA issues, such as border demarcation and the conduct of popular consultations for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. They must reach agreement on post-CPA issues, including citizenship and the security of minorities and vulnerable populations, such as Northerners in the South and Southerners in the North. On the critical issue of citizenship, the United States strongly urges the parties to reach an agreement that is in line with applicable international obligations and does not arbitrarily deprive any individual of citizenship.

Let me commend the United Nations for its efforts as it helps the CPA parties to implement the referendum, including by procuring and distributing ballots. We call on the parties to the CPA to cooperate with the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and facilitate full and unfettered freedom of access and movement for all United Nations peacekeepers.

Unfortunately, however, this meeting comes at a critical time, one that has been marred by troubling violence. The United States strongly condemns the Government of the Sudan's actions in Khor Abeche, South Darfur. We have heard deeply disturbing reports of Sudanese Armed Forces blocking the movement of civilians, then looting and burning the village. These reports deserve the Council's serious attention and effective responses by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

The United States wishes to remind all parties, as well as UNAMID and United Nations Headquarters, that UNAMID's Chapter VII mandate authorizes it to carry out its mandated responsibilities with or without the permission of the Government of the Sudan. As we invest billions of dollars and risk peacekeepers' lives, we expect no less.

It is more important than ever that all parties avoid inflammatory words and actions that undermine peace and stability and violate international law. In particular, the United States calls on the Government of the Sudan to immediately halt aerial bombardments. We condemn the bombardments of the 12 and 24 November and 6 December into the Kiir River valley, which resulted in the displacement of at least 1,000 people.

We again call on the Government of the Sudan to end the arrest and harassment of human rights activists and journalists and to release those who have been imprisoned unjustly, including those jailed for exercising such basic rights as freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Darfur remains a top priority for the United States. This is reflected in the recent appointment of Ambassador Dane Smith as our Senior Advisor for Darfur. We remain seriously concerned by the violence and humanitarian needs in Darfur, as well as by the lack of accountability. At the same time, all States must redouble their efforts to stem the flow of arms into Darfur and faithfully implement the United Nations sanctions regime.

The United States remains deeply committed to a brighter future for all the people of the Sudan. As President Obama noted at the United Nations in September,

> "What happens in the Sudan in the days ahead may decide whether a people who have endured too much war move forward towards peace or slip backwards to bloodshed. And what happens in the Sudan matters to all sub-Saharan Africa, and it matters to the world."

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6453

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6453rd meeting

Thursday, 16 December 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Rice	(United States of America)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Nishida
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mrs. Morgan Sotomayor
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

Women and peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) (S/2010/604)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-69655 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Women and peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) (S/2010/604)

The President: I have received letters from the representatives of Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste and Ukraine, in which they request to participate in this meeting. I propose to invite those representatives to participate in this meeting without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I extend invitations under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, Military Adviser of the Office of Military Affairs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

It is so decided.

I have received a letter from His Excellency Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, in which he requests to be invited to participate in this meeting, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Thank you very much, Madam President, for convening this important meeting. I appreciate your personal attention to the problem of sexual violence, which is a top priority for me and the United Nations system.

I thank all members of the Security Council for the draft resolution to be adopted during the course of this meeting. The Council will thereby put in place a vital building block for holding perpetrators accountable. It will also send out a resounding message to those who would violate both women's bodies and the law that impunity will not be tolerated.

But let us remember that even as we take this step here, catastrophe is unfolding for communities caught in the chaos of conflicts. Armed elements are targeting civilians, raping women and men and terrorizing entire populations. Premeditated campaigns are being waged with the most sinister goals: to silence women leaders, empty areas that are filled with rich minerals but poor people, recruit others and perpetuate the cycle of abuse.

Sexual violence shatters lives, devastates countries and destroys hope. Victims who might have contributed to development are shunned. Girls who might have grown into great leaders cannot even attend school. In many places, the threat is so pervasive that women cannot cultivate land, collect water or get the fuel they need to cook and feed their families — for fear that they will be attacked in the process. Often, perpetrators seem to reserve particular cruelty for children, intentionally traumatizing boys and girls by forcing them to watch as their mothers are attacked or by attacking the children themselves.

Earlier this year, this horrific reality played out in Walikale, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Hundreds of women were raped, as were girls, boys and men. One young girl, just five years-old, suffered such severe physical injuries that she may never fully recover. We can only imagine the psychological trauma she now endures.

Victims may survive such attacks only to be subjected to another form of abuse. Sexual violence is one of the only crimes where the victims — and not the perpetrators — are left with stigma. This is true not only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but in other countries around the world. Victims are shamed and marginalized. Their husbands reject them. Men and boys who are sexually attacked often suffer isolation and discrimination. Just when these individuals need support from their communities, it falls away.

Silencing the victims only benefits the perpetrators. It feeds impunity, which erodes faith in the justice system. Make no mistake: this is intentional and part of the very design of the violence. Attacks on women are attacks on peace itself. That is why we must do more to fight stigma, protect women's security and help the victims. They need services and they deserve comprehensive reparations. This is critical to recovery for individuals and justice for society.

The United Nations and the international community can support national efforts, but we cannot supplant them. I call on leaders to join me in declaring that enough is enough. We cannot permit the sexual violence that is used as a tactic of war to become a way of life. The United Nations is working in conflict areas and troubled areas around the world to protect populations and combat impunity. We have seen that determined and concerted action can yield positive results.

In Walikale, peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), in a joint operation with Congolese forces, arrested "Lieutenant Colonel" Mayele, who was allegedly responsible for commanding the mass rapes. But many perpetrators are still at large. MONUSCO and the United Nations system are helping the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities to investigate the crimes, protect witnesses and bring perpetrators to justice. MONUSCO has also launched a targeted operation to better protect civilians in the affected areas. As a result, a number of suspected human rights abusers have been arrested and many internally displaced people able to return to their homes.

Important steps have also been taken at the international level, including the recent arrests of leaders of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda in France and Germany, and the work of the International Criminal Court on sexual violence crimes.

Today's draft resolution gives us sharper tools and sharper teeth in the fight against sexual violence. It gives me a mandate to list, in my reports on this question, parties who commit such acts. It challenges the United Nations system to provide better information, and it reaffirms the Council's commitment to adopting sanctions against perpetrators. I will do everything possible to ensure that the draft resolution leads to real protection for populations at risk.

My Special Representative is bringing the voices of women to the Council's deliberations. I am grateful that she has been invited to brief the Council today, and hope that she has many opportunities to do so again in the future. The Council's sustained political support for the deployment of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and the protection of advisors in affected countries will be critical as we move ahead.

The entire United Nations system is mobilized under my campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". We are working to change attitudes across the world. Together, the United Nations, national Governments and the international community can eliminate this menace and secure a better future for all people.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Ms. Wallström: I am grateful for the opportunity to address the Council on this important occasion. Although it is my fourth briefing as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, today's meeting is in many ways a first. It is not merely a reiteration or renewal of commitments; rather, it is a decisive step towards a comprehensive monitoring and accountability architecture, aimed at shattering the vicious cycle of impunity for wartime sexual violence.

Allow me to start by expressing my appreciation for the leadership of the United States, all Council members for their support of today's resolution, and the more than 60 Member States that have co-sponsored this landmark text and are participating in today's debate. I would also like to particularly thank

the Secretary-General for his strong personal engagement on this issue. My remarks this afternoon will outline what the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) and the resulting resolution mean for the United Nations system in general, and my mandate in particular.

When I accepted this mandate, I consulted an array of United Nations, governmental and non-governmental experts on one critical question: What should be our measure of success? Over the past decade, successive Council resolutions have recognized that international peace and security is indivisible from women's peace and security. And yet, I began my mandate in the knowledge that today, as throughout history, wartime sexual violence is never adequately recognized, reported or remedied. Rape persists in contexts of conflict and unrest across the globe because, without the credible threat of consequences, there is no deterrent. The impact on the ground in other areas of Council practice, such as the protection of children in armed conflict and the work of sanctions committees, is real and proven.

Thus, our measure of success must be the implementation of a system whereby timely and reliable information on sexual violence flows from the country to the global level, where it provides a basis for accountability and action. Under the long shadow cast by the mass rapes in Walikale, the United Nations can do no less than bring all of its accountability tools to bear. This must apply equally whether the victim is an eight-year-old girl or an 80-year-old grandmother. Today, we are poised to make that system a reality.

The report currently before the Council outlines such a system, structured around four pillars: first, monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements in relevant countries; secondly, a mandate to list parties to conflicts on the Council's agenda that are credibly suspected of committing patterns of sexual violence; thirdly, to use this list as a platform for engaging those parties in a structured dialogue to obtain protection commitments; and finally, tracking measures to prevent and punish sexual violence that can result in either de-listing or, in the case of persistent violators, referral to sanctions committees.

In 10 years of the women, peace and security agenda, there has never been an accountability system that directly engages armed groups in protection and prevention. This is despite the fact that sexual violence — which devastates the lives and livelihoods of countless women — has been recognized as a grave breach of international humanitarian law since the early 1990s. The new structure will help to ensure that mass rape is never again met with mass impunity. Instead of serving as a cheap and silent tactic of war, sexual violence will be a liability for armed groups. It will expose their superiors to increased international scrutiny and pressure, seal off the corridors of power and close all exits to those who commit, command or condone such acts. This will reinforce the line between a commander and a criminal.

A reliable monitoring and accountability system must be built on a common conceptual foundation. To this end, the Secretary-General's report defines for the first time the concept of conflict-related sexual violence. This frame of reference will shed light not only on the profile of the perpetrators, but the factors that facilitate or restrain perpetration. It is, after all, impossible to prevent what we do not fully understand.

When my Office reviewed the data being collected from the field, it became evident that sexual violence as a tactic or consequence of war was not captured under existing categories. For instance, the rubric "violence against women" does not reflect cases against men and boys; the label "harmful traditional practices" mischaracterizes sexual violence as cultural or traditional; and the term "gender-based violence" does not reflect the fact that gender discrimination is not the only rationale for sexual violence as a method of ethnic cleansing or a tactic of terror. As a number of field colleagues have noted, the issue warrants specific consideration.

It is also significant that this report also appears under the General Assembly agenda item entitled "Prevention of conflict". That is an appropriate — albeit untraditional — lens, as rape increases the spiral of violence, prolongs conflict and exacerbates its impact on civilians. This approach helps to refute the myth that sexual violence is opportunistic or inevitable by illustrating causal links with security factors and actors. It also counters the stereotype that women are inherently vulnerable by highlighting how they are — intentionally, or through lax command and control structures — placed at risk.

Because sexual violence has traditionally been viewed as the random acts of a few renegades or part

of the spoils of war, it has been ignored in peace talks, reparations schemes and funding frameworks for recovery. Sexual violence is absent even from peace agreements that followed wars where it was a major feature of the fighting, such as in Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Liberia. It has rarely been included in ceasefire agreements, which only call for an end to acts considered as part of the conflict. Historically, sexual violence by soldiers was prosecuted with a view to restoring military discipline, rather than upholding women's rights. The perspective of the victim and the question of reparations barely featured. In all of those respects, the new analytical framework will have an impact. Though we may never have all the answers, we an ask more focused questions.

Indeed, after resolution 1820 (2008), the question is no longer whether sexual violence is a peace and security matter for the Security Council, but when. The Secretary-General's report provides a number of examples. They include sexual violence linked with forced displacement, to control coveted territory and lucrative natural resources, by spoilers to destabilize a peace process, in the context of elections, to extract information during detention or disarmament, and sexual violence that has become normalized in communities that have seen it go unpunished during years of war as well as in countries that have integrated known abusers into national forces. Such violence cannot be separated from the broader security challenges confronting the Council.

This understanding is borne out by what I have seen in the field and heard from the survivors. The words of one woman I met negate the traditional hierarchy of wartime horrors that has trivialized rape relative to murder and torture. She said: "They have taken my life without killing me".

When I was in Bosnia and Herzegovina last month, I was reminded that this hierarchy is also a logic on which the perpetrators often rely. For instance, at the start of the well-known Foca trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the three men charged with sexual slavery could barely understand why they were being tried for what was "only" rape, stating by way of defense: "But I could have killed them."

The estimated 50,000 rapes that occurred during the conflict in Bosnia have resulted in just 12 convictions in national courts. The process has been painfully slow. Women describe being treated in the courtroom as just another exhibit from which evidence can be extracted, saying: "It is better to be a criminal than a victim in this system". Most women who endured unspeakable brutality now endure the indignity of seeing their former assailant in the street, the bank or the supermarket, flaunting their impunity. I met with women who, 15 years after the peace agreement, still shake, sigh and weep, and one described how the soldiers led her to the entrance of a rape camp, which she remembers as the door to hell.

Rape victims are the only casualties of war that a nation dishonours rather than honours. Their war wounds represent not sacrifice, but shame. When I was in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I learned that not a single victim or community has received reparations for sexual violence, not even the approximately 2,000 survivors who have managed to obtain a judgment in their favour. In Liberia, despite 14 years of civil war in which rape was rampant, and despite the reintegration of ex-combatants into society with no psychological counselling, the explanation I heard most frequently for why rape remains the number-one reported crime was "the way women dress". The idea that women are deserving of this violence, or used to it, or that it is their culture, makes a mockery of the notion of universal human rights. Women across the Kivus did not tell me "if only this were not our culture"; they said "if only it were not for the war".

Our current understanding of conflict-related sexual violence is a credit to the Bosnian women who broke the silence about rape as a crime of war. It is a credit to the women of the Congo who continue to work and build networks even in the face of terror. And it is a credit to the human rights defenders on the front lines.

But our monitoring and reporting must become more systematic, timely and complete. Ultimately, sexual violence is not just a tragedy we must redress, but a threat we must prevent. My Office, in partnership with UN Women and others, will develop an early-warning matrix of risk factors to draw attention to the red flags that may signal a spike in sexual violence. Women's protection advisers will have an important role to play in the new monitoring system.

Looking forward, significant challenges and opportunities remain in implementing the mandate I

have been given by this Council. From the outset, I have made ending impunity my top priority. I remain convinced that in many ways, prosecution is prevention.

I recently attended the opening of the Bemba trial at the International Criminal Court, the first international investigation in which alleged rapes far outnumber alleged killings. This sends a powerful signal that no military or political leader is above the law and no woman is below it. Beyond prosecution, there is a need for recognition and reparation. The aim is to bring the perpetrators to justice, but also to bring justice to the victims.

My Office will continue to support the capacity of Governments affected by armed conflict to address sexual violence. Specifically, the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law will help Governments to enhance accountability. I am delighted to have the newly appointed Team Leader with me today in this Chamber.

I also add my voice to that of the Council in encouraging troop-contributing countries to invite the mobile support team on sexual violence to present training scenarios to their troops prior to deployment.

While the resolution to be adopted by the Council today is a welcome development, like any New Year's resolution, what matters most is the resolve to uphold it every day of the year. To that end, I urge the Council to give sexual violence continuous consideration.

Long after the guns fall silent, the consequences of rape remain. For women and girls who walk to marketplaces, water collection points or schools on roads still controlled by armed groups and return home to communities teeming with ex-combatants, the war is not over. Sexual violence has been called a war within a war, but often it continues as a war within the peace. War lives on in the children born of rape and orphaned by violence, who line the roads in gangs, begging for money and food, aspiring to be soldiers. By attacking shared values, sexual violence destroys not only people, but their sense of being a people.

We cannot bring justice to every victim throughout the history of war. But what we are here to do today, and from this moment on, is to ensure that conflict-related sexual violence no longer goes unreported, unaddressed or unpunished. That will be our collective measure of success.

The President: I thank Ms. Wallström for her statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Le Roy (*spoke in French*): I too thank the Council presidency for having taken the initiative to organize this important debate. This is an opportunity for us to review the efforts of peacekeeping missions against sexual violence in times of conflict. This question remains one of the major challenges confronting us. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) are deeply concerned by ongoing sexual violence against civilians, in particular women and children, in conflict zones in spite of repeated condemnations by the international community.

In 2010, DPKO and DFS launched various targeted initiatives to improve the implementation of our protection mandates. We have concentrated our efforts on the prevention of protection incidents by missions and on strengthening their capacities to support national authorities in the implementation of their responsibilities to protect civilians in their territories.

It is vital to recognize that peacekeeping missions are but one protection actor among others, beginning, of course, with the Government of the host country, and that they cannot guarantee absolute protection. We have always said that we expect each mission component to do its utmost to prevent any occurrence of sexual violence.

After developing the operational concepts earlier this year, we centred our actions around five key pillars in order to improve the planning and implementation of our protection mandates. These are: first, the development of a strategic reference framework to guide the development of missions' protection strategies; second, training modules on the protection of civilians for pre- and post-deployment courses, which include practical exercises and address all components of peacekeeping missions; third, an assessment of resources and capacities necessary for the implementation of our civilian protection mandates; fourth, an in-depth study of planning processes for the protection of civilians pre- and post-deployment; and finally, capacity-building initiatives. We are working on a definition of standard capacities for our military personnel in order to better define our

expectations for performance in civilian protection, and for our other mandated duties.

We have also undertaken specific initiatives to combat sexual violence, which are clearly at the centre of our efforts to protect civilians.

(*spoke in English*)

Addressing impunity, for example through the establishment of the rule of law and accountability, is another key plank of our ongoing efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence. DPKO, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, developed the conceptual framework for a rapidly deployable team of experts on sexual violence in armed conflict, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1888 (2009). Members of the team, including a DPKO judicial officer, are currently in the process of being recruited, as just mentioned by Ms. Wallström.

A number of illustrative examples from the field include the case of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), where the military legal adviser in Goma is currently providing technical support to Congolese military justice authorities in the conduct of the Walikale investigation. MONUSCO is carrying out an ongoing procedural efficiency and fairness project, which provides training to military and civilian judges and prosecutors, with a particular focus on conflict-related sexual violence. The Mission is also in the process of establishing prosecution support cells to assist the military justice authorities of the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) in prosecuting persons arrested by the FARDC.

The United Nations Mission in the Sudan provides technical support to the Government of Southern Sudan to review, amend and enact legislation that ensures protection from sexual and gender-based violence. In the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), there is a project currently under way to train prosecution and investigation teams specifically on sexual and gender-based violence issues. In 2009, the Liberian judiciary launched, with the support of UNMIL, a dedicated court for sexual and gender-based violence cases that pays special attention to victim and witness protection.

We are addressing the question of the training of DPKO personnel to address conflict-related sexual violence in a comprehensive manner. I would like to highlight that DPKO and DFS are building the capacity of United Nations police officers to protect women and children from sexual violence through the development of a standardized training curriculum for United Nations police on investigating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

Capacity-building continues on the ground through the establishment of specialized police units and training curricula for investigators. These have proven effective in several peacekeeping missions. The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, for example, has conducted training for the Timor-Leste national police on gender-based violence investigations. It has also produced a manual on the topic for community police and elements of the Vulnerable Persons Units.

DPKO and DFS are also planning to launch a United Nations police standardized best practices toolkit on gender and policing in peacekeeping operations in 2011, the aim of which is to ensure that such practices are shared among peacekeeping missions and implemented.

On the question of preparing peacekeeping personnel to implement their mandate to protect and to respond to conflict-related sexual violence, we are developing a training curriculum on gender mainstreaming for military components, based on the DPKO/DFS gender guidelines for United Nations military in peacekeeping operations, which will help military components to mainstream gender and protection from conflict-related sexual violence at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. General Gaye is in charge of that.

In addition, in partnership with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and UN Women, scenario-based training materials developed on the basis of *Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice* are also under development for military components. The DPKO/DFS operational guidance to assist civilian, military and police components of peacekeeping missions to implement resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) is in its final stages and will support the

overall implementation of those resolutions in peacekeeping missions.

Also in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, we have taken steps to act on the request by this Council to appoint women's protection advisers in peacekeeping missions. We are currently undertaking consultations with our missions concerning the role and the responsibilities of women's protection advisers. Our preliminary discussions thus far indicate that the recruitment of advisers will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, owing to the differing architecture and challenges of each peacekeeping operation. We are striving to ensure that the way forward supports an integrated response that reinforces existing capacities on the ground, thus avoiding fragmentation and duplication of responsibilities.

As the Council is well aware, there remain a number of systemic challenges that prevent us from providing effective protection from conflict-related sexual violence. The insufficient number of female uniformed personnel is one of those challenges. In the absence of sufficient female personnel, the missions are often unable to effectively reach out to those we are mandated to protect, the majority of whom are women and children.

In spite of these constraints, our missions are endeavouring to do their best with the limited capacities they possess. For example, we have seen that the recruitment of national community liaison assistants has provided the necessary link between troops and local communities in the Kivus and is contributing towards enhanced protection of the civilian population. It is critical that this important outreach capacity be supported by a sufficient number of female Community liaison assistants, who will be able to communicate effectively with the women in the local communities we endeavour to protect. It should be noted, however, that there are sometimes cultural constraints involved with the use of female assistants.

On a more systemic level, the results of the Police Division's global effort have allowed us to increase the proportion of female police officers in our missions from 7.8 per cent to nearly 10 per cent now in one year. It is of note, for example, that women account for 24 per cent of the police personnel in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

In closing, I would like to stress that the economic, social and political empowerment of women within societies affected by armed conflict is fundamental to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence. Women must participate in reforming and building the institutions that will provide for their protection and indeed, for the protection of all civilians.

The President: I thank Mr. Le Roy for his statement.

I now give the floor to Lieutenant General Gaye.

Lieutenant General Gaye: It is an honour to stand before the Council and to share my experience in addressing conflict-related sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 4 April 2005, I took up my functions as Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and on 8 April I travelled to Walungu in South Kivu on an initial visit to the company deployed there. During the Commander's briefing, I was informed of raids by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda on villages where women were kidnapped, turned into sex slaves and released only when they became pregnant. That was later confirmed to me in a letter from the Ninja group chief, which I have kept religiously. It was in this way that, within a few days of stepping onto Congolese soil, I was made aware of the gravity and magnitude of the sexual violence that was prevalent in that country.

It is with that in mind that I wish to pay tribute to Ms. Wallström and to you, Madame President, for your contributions to the fight against sexual violence and for the protection of civilians. As a former Force Commander in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I would like to emphasize that commitment to preventing sexual violence is a key part of the broader effort to protect civilians. It was therefore an integral and specific component of the Mission's implementation strategy for the protection of civilians and in support of the national authorities, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of efforts to build local ownership in addressing protection priorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

MONUC worked diligently in coordination with protection partners to develop a Mission strategy to address protection issues in a coherent and holistic conceptual framework. Furthermore, we issued a practical set of specific guidelines on sexual and gender-based violence for tactical-level military and field-level troops to improve preventive and responsive actions by offering a checklist of activities to be undertaken by military components in response to sexual violence against civilians.

From my experience in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, addressing sexual violence requires the following: first of all, clear commitment from the leadership all the way from the top down; translating that commitment into operational orders and directives for the Mission; awareness of what constitutes a security threat, taking into account the perspectives of the local community, including women's organizations, with adequate flexibility and capacity to adapt military operations, including deployment tactics, patterns and frequency of patrols, information analysis, and response and adaptation to protection needs; strengthening civilian-military relationships, including specific outreach to community women so they can give information about patterns of attack and so that peacekeepers can also build confidence; improving understanding of local, political, social and protection dynamics; enhancing the capacity to address emergency situations; and acting as a catalyst to build confidence at all levels within the local community.

Secondly, the strategy elaborated by the leadership must be implemented on the ground. As a Force Commander and a member of the senior management of the integrated peacekeeping mission, I ensured that my force directives, concept of operations, rules of engagement — approved by the Under-Secretary-General — and standard operating procedures reflected the task of protecting civilians, including women and children, from sexual violence.

Our military leaders, from my Deputy Force Commander to battalion and company commanders, understood this mandated responsibility, which they translated into practical operations aimed at protecting civilians from physical violence and facilitating the establishment of a protective environment. Some of those operations and key considerations included identifying high-risk areas and vulnerabilities; improving military liaison with local populations through community liaison interpreters; taking mitigation measures and employing crisis response; and coordinating with humanitarian partners, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Lastly, strategies to counter sexual violence should take account of lessons learned to identify weaknesses within the system and to assess the efficiency of the mechanisms in place in order to make necessary adjustments.

In view of this, experience and lessons learned reaffirm that responding to sexual violence inflicted on women and children by armed elements in our areas of operation is an integral part of peacekeepers' responsibility to deliver better protection of civilians. In this connection, and as Mr. Le Roy stated, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support have developed a number of guidelines, including the operational concept, the strategic framework for drafting protection of civilian strategies in peacekeeping operations, and the inventory of peacekeeping practices, intended to address conflict-related sexual violence.

In my current capacity as Military Adviser in Peacekeeping Operations, I will endeavour to ensure that military planning processes integrate protection priorities and that our force generation efforts respond to the skill set and capabilities required to carry out protection of civilians tasks. In addition, I am considering issuing specific guidelines for heads of military components on the protection of civilians, including against sexual violence, as a priority in the Office of Military Affairs. Last but not least, I will also continue to engage Member States to deploy female military personnel, as Mr. Le Roy urged.

The success and sustainability of our efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict situations require the engagement of all partners and an integrated approach to promoting women's rights and security.

The President: I thank Lieutenant General Gaye for his briefing.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/641, containing the text of a draft resolution submitted by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany,

Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Members also have before them document S/2010/604, containing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009).

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1960 (2010).

I remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the text in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I thank you, Madame, for convening this open debate. Unfortunately, the issue of sexual violence is all too relevant to the work of the Security Council, as we have heard when discussing many different conflict situations this year. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the personal interest that he has shown in this important dossier and I thank him, Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Lieutenant General Gaye for their briefings.

I would also like to pay special tribute to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Margot Wallström. In less than a year, she has had a great impact. Her global advocacy role has given this issue prominence in public debate, pushing for an end to impunity, including in relation to the Walikale mass rapes. Her field visits to speak with survivors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and her briefings have brought the voices of those women to the Council to inform our deliberations.

If we are going to resolve and prevent conflict effectively, we must help to protect women from violence, particularly sexual violence. That understanding is now fundamental to the way that the Security Council approaches its responsibilities. In October, on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), many Member States identified the need for concrete action to accompany the political support that the Council has given to this important agenda. We agree. We need to translate political commitments into tangible lasting action on the ground. Without such practical action, we will fail the victims of sexual violence.

The United Kingdom has clearly set out its commitments in its new national action plan. The plan was launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The commitments include strengthening the role of women in structures and processes within the Government of the United Kingdom designed to address conflict; country-specific action plans that set out the action we will take on the ground to support women in priority countries, starting with Afghanistan, Nepal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; working to strengthen the implementation of commitments by the international community; and continuing our strong advocacy role in multilateral and regional organizations. The British Government has also announced the appointment of a minister with special responsibility for combating violence against women overseas.

Nowhere is the need for concrete commitments greater than in situations of armed conflict. As resolution 1960 (2010) highlights, sexual violence continues to be a widely used weapon of warfare. It

stigmatizes survivors, divides communities, exacerbates and prolongs conflict, and impedes the restoration of peace and security. Impunity for such crimes can prevent a society from recovering from conflict.

It is clear that the proliferation of sexual violence against women and girls is often aimed at marginalizing their contribution to society. It deliberately degrades the role that they can play in restoring the fabric of peaceful communities. So, in addition to the appalling human cost, there is a deeply damaging impact on societies as a whole.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the significant steps forward that we have taken today with resolution 1960 (2010). First, it contains a new provision to identify parties to armed conflict that is credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence. That will help our efforts to tackle impunity for crimes of sexual violence and conflict.

Second are increased monitoring, analysis and reporting. That will help us to develop a more comprehensive and integrated approach. More effective monitoring of patterns of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict should allow the Council to identify and mandate the action necessary to prevent it.

Thirdly, we will be able to address the arbitrary division that has been created by a monitoring and reporting mechanism for children in armed conflict who are subject to patterns of sexual violence when no such protection is afforded to those older than 18.

I thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and ambitious report (S/2010/604). I am pleased that the Council has welcomed the report as a strong signal of our intention to support and assist in the eradication of sexual violence as a tactic of warfare. This terminology and its consideration by the Council are relatively new, but the tragic reality is not. We look forward to progress by the Secretary-General on his work with parties to armed conflict to ensure that such unacceptable abuses that threaten international peace and security come to an end.

Mrs. Morgan Sotomayor (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement and welcome the valuable briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, as well as the statements of Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Lieutenant General Gaye. Allow me also to express Mexico's appreciation for the leadership that the United States has shown in the fight against sexual violence in armed conflict.

During its membership of the Security Council, Mexico has sought to promote a broad agenda of the protection of civilians in armed conflict, pursuant to the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law. In these past two years, significant steps have been taken to ensure that women and children will no longer be the principal victims of the violence to which armed conflict give rise.

One aspect of particular concern is sexual violence in armed conflict or post-conflict situations, as that subject cannot be approached simply from a gender perspective. The impact on society of sexual violence used as a tactic of war is so great that addressing it must be an integral part of any strategy for peace and security. Sexual violence encourages the perpetuation of conflicts, promotes the displacement of populations and limits development opportunities. Certain groups, such as displaced persons, refugees and persons with disabilities, are particularly vulnerable to such crimes and require special attention.

Mexico believes that it is not enough to recall that crimes of sexual violence against women have been criminalized. It is necessary to act on our support for strengthening the International Criminal Court (ICC) in order to prosecute the perpetrators of sexual violence in the context of armed conflict. For that reason, we are closely following the work of the ICC in the case brought against Jean-Pierre Bemba, and we reiterate our firm support for the Court.

The atrocities committed against women and children in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and other regions of the world are permanent reminders of the fact that existing norms are flagrantly flouted. Ensuring respect for international law is an ongoing challenge, for which the primary responsibility falls to States. Mexico reiterates its call on States to fully meet their obligations under international humanitarian law and the norms of human rights and refugee law.

With the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, an important step was taken to address this phenomenon, and in the short time that she has held that post Ms. Wallström has made it clear that, while there are broad challenges, it is possible to

provide a comprehensive and effective response to victims of sexual violence and to make that issue a priority of our strategies for peace and reconciliation.

Through resolution 1960 (2010), adopted today, the Security Council has strengthened the mechanisms for the collection and analysis of information on the ground. It gives the Special Representative an additional tool by asking her to include, in the annex to her reports, the names of parties to an armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council who systematically commit rape or other forms of sexual violence.

My delegation is particularly satisfied by the coordination that Ms. Wallström has maintained with the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy. It seems to us that, concerning the particularities and special focus of each mechanism, there are clear synergies and areas of cooperation that can further optimize the impact of the two agendas of protection for civilians in general and women and children in particular.

We recognize that the Security Council has taken determined steps to eliminate the problem of sexual violence in armed conflict. It must continue its work pursuant to resolution 1888 (2009) based on the following four pillars: the fight against impunity; the prevention of new cases and protection of vulnerable groups; security sector reform; and comprehensive care and reparations for victims.

The Security Council faces significant challenges. It must ensure the functioning and impact of the monitoring system and the presentation of reports on sexual violence in conflict, and systematically include components on gender and on prevention of sexual violence in the terms of reference of its field visits and the mandates for its peacekeeping operations.

My delegation hopes that the Security Council will step up its efforts to combat this problem more effectively.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): France joins in the statement to be made on behalf of the European Union.

I welcome the initiative of the United States presidency of the Council to convene this open debate. In adopting resolution 1888 (2009) last year, the Security Council improved the regime for combating sexual violence in armed conflict. My delegation reiterates its support for the work of Ms. Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We welcome the progress made towards strengthening the rule of law in countries in conflict. We welcome the firm commitment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, led by Alain Le Roy, and the contribution of civil society and non-governmental organizations. Resolution 1960 (2010), adopted today, will support that momentum. UN Women must play its full role in those common efforts.

At the same time, the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) gives cause for alarm. Sexual violence continues to be used as a weapon of war by parties to conflicts in a number of regions worldwide. We all recall the mass rapes committed in Walikale this past summer, and we expect the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to inform the Security Council about measures taken to assist the victims and to combat impunity.

Beyond that tragic situation, no one can remain impassive to the violence perpetrated in the Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Burma against women belonging to minority ethnic groups, or in Côte d'Ivoire, where recent developments have caused increased concern. We expect that procedures carried out in Guinea following the crimes perpetrated in the Conakry stadium in September 2009 will be rapidly completed. However, we welcome the development of a strategy to combat sexual violence in Chad and the establishment of a special tribunal in Liberia.

The United Nations has a particular responsibility with regard to the phenomenon of sexual violence. Indeed, peacekeeping operations must establish strategies on sexual violence. Gender advisors, advisors on the protection of women, and human rights units have a vital role to play in this context. It is also essential to engage in dialogue with parties to armed conflict on the issue of sexual violence. Every opportunity must be taken to educate the parties on their obligations and to encourage them to change their behaviour. The fight against sexual violence must be accompanied by programmes to assist victims and provide them with care and opportunities for rehabilitation.

Given the scope of the challenges to be addressed by the United Nations, France welcomes the Council's resolve in this area. The resolution we adopted today

has three main areas of progress. First, it will allow the Council to receive reliable information in real time on which to base its actions. France therefore supports the establishment of procedures to monitor, analyse and communicate information on situations of concern.

The Council has set political parametres: coherence and coordination on the ground, on the one hand, and respect for the integrity and specificity of the mechanism to protect children in armed conflict, on the other. In that context, the United Nations and all its entities must now work to establish the most effective system possible on the ground.

The resolution then provides a way to list parties who commit systematic sexual violence. That represents important progress in harmonizing human rights protection regimes established by the Council to the benefit of women and children. Implementing these measures will require strengthened cooperation between Ms. Coomaraswamy and Ms. Wallström.

The resolution finally strengthens the prospects of sanctions against the perpetrators and those responsible for sexual violence. It is vital that the Council systematically examine the possibility of including sexual violence as a criteria for sanctions during the establishment or review of the mandates of sanctions committees. The resolution requests the parties to make specific commitments and to implement them on the ground. Among these, we attach particular importance to the fight against impunity. Allow me to reiterate here the contribution of the International Criminal Court in cases where sexual violence constitutes war crimes, crimes against humanity or crimes of genocide.

In conclusion, our commitment to combating sexual violence is inseparable from the framework of follow-up to resolution 1325 (2000) in strengthening the role of women in conflict prevention and settlement and in peacebuilding.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon): First, I wish to thank you, Madame, for organizing today's open debate. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Special Representative Wallström, Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Lieutenant General Gaye for their comprehensive briefings.

Wartime sexual violence has been the subject of one of history's greatest silences for long enough. While the Security Council has adopted landmark resolutions to try to combat what has been termed a weapon of war, United Nations actors on the ground still lack the necessary tools to fight this war crime.

Resolution 1960 (2010), adopted by the Council today, provides them with some of these needed tools. The Council has requested the Secretary-General to list, in an annex to his annual report, parties that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Security Council's agenda. Hence, the Council is not only signalling to rapists in conflict zones around the world that their acts will no longer go unchecked, but also opening the way for more direct and constructive United Nations engagement with those parties, upon whom we call to make specific and time-bound commitments to combating sexual violence.

Sexual violence is not inevitable. It is not cultural and should not be considered as collateral damage. When used systematically as a weapon of war, its purpose is to break the will of people by dominating them in humiliating and dehumanizing ways. It has dire consequences not only on the populations against whom it is perpetrated, but also on international peace and security, as it poses enduring challenges to durable stability and social cohesion. It is therefore our collective responsibility to put an end to it.

It is my Government's hope that today's resolution will establish formal monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, and generate insightful analysis of trends and patterns to better protect affected populations and inform targeted measures. It is also important to further reinforce trust between local communities and United Nations peacekeeping missions on the ground and to establish effective channels of communication that would provide timely and accurate information in the event of rapes.

Female peacekeepers and women protection advisors are crucial in this sense. Where they have been present, local populations have more readily reported on instances of sexual violence. Today's resolution unequivocally supports their presence and the need to mainstream them. Furthermore, we welcome the development by the Secretariat of scenario-based training materials on combating sexual violence for peacekeepers, and we encourage Member States to use them.

Although the tools we have formalized today through resolution 1960 (2010) will undoubtedly make a difference in our efforts to end conflicts through a fair and lasting peace, the accompanying establishment of functional governmental institutions and the rule of law remain the international community's best bet for providing populations with the protection they deserve, for ending impunity and for enabling victims and communities to begin their painstaking recovery.

My country welcomes the adoption of resolution 1960 (2010) today and the clear signal it sends from the international community to perpetrators of the savage crimes of sexual violence around the world that we will not stand idly by as the bodies of women are turned into battlegrounds and that those perpetrators will be held accountable for their acts.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): First, allow me to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his report (S/2010/604) and his additional remarks here today. It is my firm belief that the work of the Security Council will be greatly enhanced by the report, which contextualizes our understanding of the causes and effects of conflict-related sexual violence. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy, Military Adviser Babacar Gaye and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Margot Wallström for their briefings.

As the nature of conflict evolves, not only are civilians more frequently targeted, but we are also witnessing a disturbing trend in the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war. The international community is rightly appalled by such trends, and it is also our responsibility to take action to protect civilians and prevent such incidents.

Conflict-related sexual violence can disenfranchize and displace entire communities. Such outcomes are only the beginning of a spiral of social decline triggered by armed conflict. That chain reaction was recognized in resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), and our efforts to combat impunity, instil cultures of accountability, tackle deep-rooted attitudes and ultimately protect the vulnerable must now be intensified.

All persons of good conscience should be appalled by the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, visited upon the most vulnerable members of society. Although only recently appointed, Ms. Wallström has already brought sexual violence in conflict firmly into the foreground of the international peace and security landscape. The new momentum she has generated has, we believe, contributed to the arrests of Lieutenant Colonel Mayele and Callixte Mbarushimana in connection with this past summer's mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

While Special Representative Wallström's five-point priority agenda recognizes the cultural and political aspects of the problem, we share her conclusion that sexual violence in conflict is likely to occur where the rule of law is weak and where adequate legal mechanisms and institutions are lacking. Consequently, legal mechanisms to deter the use of systematic sexual violence in conflict situations must be put in place. It is therefore vital that the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law receive sustainable funding to develop institutional safeguards and paths for redress in partnership with Government actors.

Resolution 1960 (2010), which we have just adopted, also speaks to the need for our peacekeepers to be fully equipped and trained to carry out mandated tasks relating to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. In that regard, Nigeria welcomes the Secretary-General's development of operational tools for the implementation of mandates for peacekeepers with regard to the protection of civilians.

The proposed monitoring and reporting mechanism on sexual violence in conflict is a welcome innovation, building upon that already in place under the children and armed conflict agenda. It is our hope that that tool will encourage accountability and produce timely, reliable information and trend analysis, which the Security Council can use to carry out its responsibility to promote the protection of civilians from conflict-related sexual violence. We also believe that there is scope for the Council to make greater use of Special Representative Wallström as a resource, given that her role brings her closer to situations on the ground. Such realities can help ensure the effectiveness of our decisions and actions.

The damage caused by the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war is far reaching. It goes beyond the immediate impact experienced by the individual. It goes beyond the families fragmented by such acts. The scars are deep and are borne by society as a whole. Such acts manifest abhorrent attitudes to women, threaten the progress made toward socioeconomic equality and impede women's participation in peace

and democratic processes. An attack involving sexual violence is indeed an attack on peace, stability and development. If we do not arrest that trend, we risk the normalization of sexual violence as a method of war. Such an outcome cannot be countenanced, and Nigeria is accordingly committed to the resolution we have just adopted as the next step towards ending sexual violence in conflict.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for having organized this important debate. We appreciate the significance that the United States attaches to the issue at hand and commend your personal tireless efforts and engagement. Our appreciation also goes to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Special Representative Wallström, Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Military Adviser Gaye for their comprehensive briefings.

At the outset, allow me to express our gratitude for the information provided by Special Representative Wallström relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina. We needed to hear those words. The only way to move forward is to face the truth and deal with it. And a great deal of institutional and individual effort has been committed and invested to that end in Bosnia. There are, however, a number of obstacles that are occasionally still encountered.

The examples presented prove how difficult and delicate the issue under discussion today is, and how far post-conflict societies have to go to fully engage and deal with their pasts. However, I wish to ensure you of our firm commitment to do everything to reach justice. We will continue that longstanding struggle and prove that justice must be satisfied for the sake of both the past and the future.

Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches the utmost importance to confronting the grave issue of sexual violence and is particularly encouraged by the commitment of the Security Council to keep the matter on its agenda. That commitment was unequivocally demonstrated by the adoption of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1894 (2009), which have paved the way for concrete action aimed at preventing sexual violence. The appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence and the creation of UN Women were significant steps towards ensuring the coherence of United Nations activities. We also welcome cooperation between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

In addition, we must use this opportunity to underscore the responsibilities of States and parties to conflict to observe and uphold their international obligations and respect international humanitarian law, which grants special protection to women and children. We are of the opinion that United Nations bodies and donors should extend more support to national Governments in building capacities and developing gender-sensitive programmes for survivors of sexual violence, with services ranging from access to justice to provision of psychological care. The role of non-governmental organizations is particularly relevant in this process.

The United Nations and the international community have demonstrated their firm commitment and political will to prevent sexual violence against women, combat impunity and enforce accountability. On the other hand, it is equally crucial that national authorities make every effort to ensure that perpetrators of sexual crimes be brought to justice and not go unpunished. In that context, international assistance is of vital importance as post-conflict countries' rebuild their justice systems and prosecute the perpetrators of sexual violence.

We reiterate the need for adequate capabilities and clear and appropriate guidelines to enable peacekeeping missions to carry out their mandated tasks, including preventing and responding to sexual violence. Recruiting women in civil, military and police components of peacekeeping missions can encourage local women to report incidents of sexual violence. Deployment of a greater number of female police and military personnel with adequate training in gender-based violence is vital for better addressing issues related to sexual violence on the ground. It can also contribute to establishing better communication with local communities.

Furthermore, we consider it crucial that the Security Council continue the practice of including, where applicable, designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence when adopting or renewing targeted sanctions pursuant to resolution 1888 (2009). We also strongly encourage the flow of information about sexual violence between

United Nations peacekeeping missions or other United Nations missions or bodies and the corresponding Security Council sanctions committees.

Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the establishment of arrangements for monitoring, analyzing and reporting sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. Such a mechanism is necessary for data collection so that the use of systematic sexual violence in conflict situations on the Council's agenda can be tracked. In order to halt incidents of sexual violence, those who are credibly suspected of being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence should be listed in the annexes of the reports. Listing and de-listing of persons responsible for those horrendous acts must be performed according to verifiable data and clear benchmarks.

We would also like to commend the delegation of the United States of America for their efforts in drafting resolution 1960 (2010), adopted today. We are convinced that this resolution will contribute towards more effective monitoring, reporting and analysis of data on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

Finally, we would like to point out that the international community has taken noteworthy steps, including the adoption of relevant resolutions, to tackle the issue of sexual violence. But, more importantly, the time has come to start converting commitments and promises into real actions on the ground to prevent violence, protect individuals, punish perpetrators and provide redress to victims. Bosnia and Herzegovina stands ready to contribute to those efforts.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): I would like to start by thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2010/604) and briefing, which contain valuable recommendations for addressing challenges regarding women and peace and security. The report is indeed most useful for understanding the conflict-related sexual violence in many parts of the world and assessing the progress of the implementation of the resolutions on this topic.

I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström and the Military Adviser, General Gaye, for their insightful briefings. I would like to express once again that we welcome the appointment of Ms. Wallström as the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict as a concrete step in the implementation of resolution 1888 (2009) and that we fully support her efforts. Last but not least, let me thank the United States delegation and you personally, Madame President, for your commitment to the cause of women around the globe and for your most commendable efforts in once again mobilizing the Council and enabling the adoption of another important resolution on this issue today.

Today, with this follow-up resolution, 1960 (2010), we are sending yet another strong message to the world that sexual violence, especially against women and children and particularly in situations of armed conflict, is not acceptable and that such acts will not be tolerated. As shown in the report of the Secretary-General, sexual violence is not a by-product or a side issue; it is deeply interconnected with the root causes of conflict, is used widely as a tactic of war and, sadly, continues even after the conflict has ended.

Thus the fight against sexual violence is not only a matter of human rights but is, and should be, at the heart of our efforts to stop and resolve conflicts. For that reason, we completely share the Secretary-General's assessment that sexual violence should be a priority consideration not only for humanitarian actors but also for peacemakers, peacekeepers and peacebuilders.

Despite some small progress achieved so far, we cannot fail to note that much remains to be done. Many structural and institutional impediments remain, which we should overcome in order to meet the challenges before us. Likewise, equally strong measures are needed to increase the participation of women in the work of peace, including post-conflict recovery efforts and peace processes, since that will help overcome the negative consequences of sexual violence, such as shame and stigma.

We have to redouble our efforts in the fight against impunity, and targeted measures should be imposed against the perpetrators of sexual violence and rape. In that regard, the most significant added value of the resolution we have just adopted derives from its action-oriented nature. It not only condemns those who perpetrate acts of violence against women but also calls for action against them. In that vein, we believe that when it comes to tackling conflicts and promoting peace and security, resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) should all become a regular part of the work of this Council.

We are also confident that the newly established UN Women will further strengthen our work by helping the United Nations pursue its efforts in a more systematic and coordinated manner in areas related to women and peace and security.

I wish to conclude by underlining that Turkey is fully committed to exerting every effort to ensure the effective implementation of resolution 1960 (2010), as well as all the other resolutions on women and peace and security.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): I thank you, Madame President, for organizing this important debate. I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy and the Military Adviser, General Gaye, for their briefings.

Uganda considers sexual violence as a serious health, human rights and development problem. There can be no peace, security or sustainable economic development in societies that deny human rights, including the human rights of women. We are concerned that, despite the existence of regional and international instruments on women's human rights, sexual violence continues to be committed at an alarming rate, both in times of peace and during armed conflicts, thus undermining the right of women to fulfil their potential. Uganda abhors sexual violence and condemns it unreservedly. The use of sexual violence as a tactic of war has been documented in many parts of the world that have experienced armed conflict, including our region. Armed groups, such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and the Lord's Resistance Army, have terrorized the population, leaving mayhem, pain and death in their wake.

Many formerly abducted women and girls still suffer from the devastating consequences of their period of sexual slavery, and a high number of them have given birth to children in captivity. That has impacted severely on the mental and physical health of survivors, in both the short and the long term.

However, while the spotlight has focused on the situation in the African Great Lakes region, all forms of sexual violence have been and continue to be documented in situations of armed conflict the world over. Indeed, we agree with the Secretary-General, who has stated in his report that sexual violence is not specific to any era, culture or continent, but traverses all of history and geography.

At the regional level, the Great Lakes region has taken important steps to address sexual violence. On 18 June 2008, just one day before the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) committed themselves under what became known as the Goma Declaration to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence.

The Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region has a specific protocol on the prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children and model legislation on the suppression of sexual violence against women and children.

Those instruments complement other national, regional and global policy and legal frameworks to which Uganda is a party. They serve to emphasize that such sexual violence is not a new or unknown phenomenon that has been ignored, but that the region is determined to put an end to such cowardly acts.

The ICGLR secretariat has, in recent times and in collaboration with the United Nations, undertaken activities to draw the attention of member countries to the seriousness of the problem and to come to agreement on commitments to end violence against women and children. We welcome and encourage that collaborative effort.

The Government of Uganda is committed to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009), as well as the Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence and Ending Impunity in the Great Lakes Region (2008). Uganda welcomes the progress made in rendering operational the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law to assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law in accordance with resolution 1888 (2009).

We also welcome the inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions in civil, military and police functions. Ugandan women, and particularly those in military and police forces, are currently engaged in peacekeeping missions in the region and around the world. We are convinced that, wherever they are based, their presence has a positive influence and may

encourage women from local communities to report all acts of sexual violence.

Uganda also welcomes the idea of establishing monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including rape in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, and other situations relevant to the implementation of resolution 1888 (2009).

We are confident that that will assist the Council's consideration of appropriate actions, including targeted and graduated measures levelled at parties to armed conflict that are listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General's annual reports on sexual violence in conflict.

We thank the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, for her work. We encourage her to take advantage of the existing legal and policy frameworks, including those in our region, to strengthen support and partnerships to put an end to the vice of sexual violence.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that there are no conditions that can either justify or excuse such actions that destroy the very essence of the human spirit of the victim and those closest to them. We should, therefore collectively remain resolute in dealing with sexual violence.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It is highly significant for the Council to hold this open debate on sexual violence in armed conflict.

China condemns all acts of violence against women in armed conflict, including sexual violence. It urges parties to conflicts to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law.

We call on the relevant national Governments to investigate crimes and bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against women in armed conflict. We urge the States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as soon as possible.

To protect women from sexual violence in armed conflict, there is much that the international community can do. In that connection, I wish to emphasize the following four points.

First, the protection of women from sexual violence needs to be tackled at its source. Only when armed conflict is effectively prevented can there be real protection for women and their rights and interests. In that context, the international community should be committed to preventive diplomacy to settle disputes through dialogue, consultation and other peaceful means.

Secondly, national Governments bear the primary responsibility for combating crimes of sexual violence. The international community should focus on providing affected countries with assistance, seek their understanding and cooperation, help strengthen their capacity-building, make progress in security sector reform and improve mechanisms in the areas of the rule of law, judicial assistance and compensation.

Thirdly, in addressing issues relating to women and peace and security, there is a need for various United Nations bodies and agencies to operate with a synergetic division of labour, in accordance with their respective mandates.

The Council needs to pay close attention to situations that pose threats to international peace and security and to make full use of existing mechanisms, such as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UN Women, to create synergy.

Fourthly, China supports resolution 1960 (2010), which was just adopted. We hope that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Margot Wallström, will perform her responsibilities strictly in line with the mandate formulated by the Council to play a constructive role in addressing sexual violence in armed conflict.

Ms. Viotti (Brazil): I would like to express our appreciation to you, Madam President, for convening this debate on such an important issue.

I also thank the Secretary-General for his remarks and for his comprehensive and candid report on sexual violence in armed conflict (S/2010/604).

We are grateful to Special Representative Ms. Margot Wallström for her presentation and for her work. Our appreciation also goes to Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy and Military Adviser Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye for their statements.

When the Council takes up issues such as sexual violence, the challenge is how to address in political,

and even operational, terms an issue that is deeply moral in nature. In other words, the Council is called upon to help to translate our sorrow and outrage at such horrific violence into practical action capable of bringing about real change. To that end, we need an integrated approach that combines prevention, combating impunity and providing support to victims.

Support to national awareness-raising activities and information campaigns that seek to break taboos and misperceptions around the issue are particularly important to preventive efforts. For example, as the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) highlights, the myth that rape is an inevitable by-product of war is persistent and dangerously self-fulfilling. The stigma and silence that already hamper addressing sexual violence in peacetime can never be allowed to prevail, especially when such violence becomes a tactic of war.

In situations where peacekeeping operations are deployed, the United Nations role in prevention becomes one of particular relevance, as the enhanced resources at its disposal create higher expectations among local populations and in international public opinion. In order to live up to such expectations, we must ensure that the prevention of sexual violence is truly made a mission-wide endeavour that involves not only troops and police but all mission components.

Recent events have shown that contacts with local populations are critical to ensuring protection. The role of civil affairs and public information components is therefore key. They should have the necessary resources — especially guidance and trained personnel — to be able to help avoid outrageous violence such as that witnessed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are encouraged by the measures being taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to mainstream the prevention of sexual violence in peacekeeping missions.

Impunity tends to fuel violence. Brazil appreciates and supports the work of Ms. Wallström's Office to support national institutions in identifying and prosecuting perpetrators. We also believe that the Team of Experts established by resolution 1888 (2009) can play an important role in helping States to strengthen the rule of law in situations of particular concern. The role of the International Criminal Court becomes key when national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to exercise their primary responsibility.

The adoption of resolution 1960 (2010) today, which Brazil is pleased to have co-sponsored, sends a clear message that the Council is ready to continue to fight impunity by focusing on parties that engage in conflict-related sexual violence. It has strengthened the tools and arrangements available to the Council and to the United Nations as a whole. It is a significant and concrete step towards ensuring accountability, thus contributing to a decrease in the incidence of the problem.

As we focus on bringing perpetrators to justice or to face opprobrium, we cannot shirk our duty to ensure proper support to victims. While this is fundamentally the responsibility of States, there are several ways by which the international community can support national efforts in that regard. Brazil recently contributed $1 million to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in support of programmes to fight sexual violence and facilitate victims' access to justice and compensation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dealing with sexual violence requires different parts of the United Nations system to act on many fronts. Today we have made progress in that direction and concluded, on a very high note, a remarkable effort that we began his year to provide an effective response by the Security Council to the scourge of sexual violence. There is certainly more to be done, but we now have the tools and a clear road map to make further progress in the future.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): My delegation welcomes the holding of this meeting under your presidency Madam, devoted to sexual violence in armed conflict. We also welcome the participation in this debate of His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whom we thank for his introduction of his report (S/2010/604) on the follow-up to the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009). We reiterate to him Gabon's full support in the fight he has carried out since 2008 as part of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, along with the participation of all the partners involved in this cause. We also thank Ms. Margot Wallström, Mr. Alain Le Roy and Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye for their respective briefings. I would like here to reiterate to Ms. Wallström Gabon's strong support in her work.

Sexual violence against women and girls is simultaneously a war crime, a crime against humanity and a grave threat to peace and security. In spite of the enormous efforts made by the international community on the ground to bring it to an end — in implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) — too many women and girls continue to be victims of rape, sexual slavery and every other sort of sexual violence. Basing myself on the report of the Secretary-General, I should like to refer to three aspects, namely, improving protection for vulnerable populations on the ground, especially women and girls; strengthening legal provisions to better combat impunity; and strengthening the means for preventing outbreaks of sexual violence during conflicts.

With regard to improving protection for vulnerable populations, Gabon would like to underscore the importance of ensuring better protection for women and girls in the field. In that regard, we would like to highlight the enormous efforts made by peacekeeping missions, which too often operate in difficult situations and in places that severely challenge their efforts to ensure effective protection for those at risk.

However, the incidents of widespread systematic rape in the Walikale region in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrate both the limits of our ability and the scope of the challenge to overcome. This is a huge and complicated undertaking that demands that we bolster our monitoring and communications capabilities in order to provide better information about reality on the ground.

In that regard, we support the Secretary-General's recommendation underscoring the need for better analysis of information and reporting of sexual violence committed during armed conflict, with a view to better coordination in the field. We should also improve our rapid-deployment capacity in affected regions, as recommended in paragraph 26 of resolution 1888 (2009).

However, our efforts will not produce the desired results without more sustained dialogue with all parties to a conflict. Among other things, such a dialogue come about by providing psychological support for victims and carrying out awareness-raising efforts among those involved. It is our belief that women themselves could play such roles.

With regard to strengthening provisions to combat impunity, my delegation believes that it is essential to make that concern part of the system for comprehensive protection against sexual violence in armed conflict. In that regard, we should welcome the progress made in international criminal law in this area. The International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda were the first to announce indictments for the use of rape as a weapon of war. Likewise the Tribunal for Sierra Leone has for the first time issued a guilty verdict for sexual slavery.

In the same vein, we are convinced that the Secretary-General' proposal to annex to his reports on this issue a list of the names of those who carry out sexual violence should serve as a effective instrument for deterrence. However, as we noted during the last debate on the protection of civilians (S/PV.6427), combating impunity is chiefly the responsibility of States. That is why my delegation highlights the need to help countries emerging from conflict to develop reliable judicial structures.

The fight against sexual violence in armed conflicts requires prevention first and foremost. From that angle, the Member States, the United Nations, donors and civil society must resolutely take that approach. Raising awareness regarding the serious danger that sexual violence can create in society should guide their actions. Early warning mechanisms that can detect indicator signs in due time are also essential pillars for actions aimed at eradicating sexual violence in armed conflicts.

It is equally vital in that exercise that a privileged place be given to women themselves. As we have seen from experience, their perceptions and commitment are undeniable and unparalleled. Not to take that fact into account would mean to deprive ourselves of an advantage in the fight against the discrimination and violence of which women and girls are the chief victims. That is particularly true in the context of the truth and reconciliation processes, which are a proven means to help battered societies and peoples recover from the agony of war and violence.

Resolution 1960 (2010), adopted earlier today by the Security Council and which was co-sponsored by my country, takes into account the chief concerns that I have just mentioned and represents accordingly an important step for targeted, strengthened action on the

part of the international community with respect to that matter.

Mr. Karev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the United States presidency for organizing today's meeting.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General and Ms. Wallström, Mr. Le Roy and General Gaye for the important information that they have provided.

Unfortunately, in spite of the existence of an entire arsenal of international instruments on human rights and international humanitarian law, civilian populations continue to be subjected to violence and to suffer in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations. Sexual violence is, of course, a repulsive crime that requires decisive condemnation and severe punishment. We are thus especially alarmed at situations where this phenomenon is becoming widespread and systematic. It is becoming an instrument in armed conflict.

Recent events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have shown how acute the problem can be. We advocate a thorough investigation of all incidents and punishment of the guilty. Only in this way can we put an end to the reign of impunity that criminals enjoy, in the overwhelming majority of cases, and thereby eradicate that reprehensible practice.

We are, however, of the view that combating sexual violence is one of the major components of all of the measures that can be used for settlement and post-conflict recovery. We are convinced that, in concentrating efforts on combating sexual violence, we must pay due attention to other abuses committed during conflict. Civilian populations — most of all, women and children — are still victims of other crimes as well, such as premeditated attacks, including terrorist acts, and indiscriminate or excessive use of force. Often, the criminals escape punishment here as well.

As we see it, the diverse nature of violence during armed conflict requires appropriate attention to all its categories. The issues of women and peace and security must be based on a comprehensive approach, which is the approach that is enshrined in resolution 1325 (2000), which is the fundamental document for the protection of women and which ensures their rights in conflicts. Moreover, we believe that women should not be perceived only as victims. We must remember that an important precondition for overcoming violence against women is their full-fledged participation in peace talks and in post-conflict peacebuilding.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his thematic report for today's meeting (S/2010/604). A number of proposals in the document to strengthen our fight against sexual violence have been embodied in a practical manner in today's resolution. We support the recommendation of giving the Secretary-General the right to make lists of parties suspected of sexual violence in conflict. Such an instrument, as we have seen in our Council experience with children's issues, is a very effective way of having an impact on violators. With respect to agreements on monitoring, analysis and accountability regarding sexual violence in conditions of armed conflict, that mechanism is undoubtedly extremely important. The timelines, accuracy, objectivity and reliability of its information will determine the effectiveness and usefulness of Council decisions to rectify the situation.

There are many different types of conflict around the globe. However, from the standpoint of the Council's purposes under the Charter, the Council's attention must be focused only on those conflicts which are a threat to peace and security. Consequently, the instruments adopted today, such as the practice of making lists of violators and agreements on monitoring, analysis and accountability, must also be used in that context.

I would also like to emphasize that the efforts of the international community will be in vain without the consent and active participation of national Governments, which have the major responsibility for handling the entire range of issues to care for and protect their people.

In conclusion, we would like to express our conviction that today's resolution will play an important role in dealing with the problems of violence against women in armed conflicts.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to you, Madame President, for representing the United States and for the strong initiatives you have continued to take to combat sexual violence in armed conflict — initiatives that have now produced another action-oriented resolution, one which Japan has gladly co-sponsored.

I thank the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and United Nations Military Adviser for their insightful briefings.

We are encouraged by the Secretary-General's clear commitment and leadership in that area. We also commend Special Representative Wallström for her vigorous efforts to confront sexual violence, such as the four country visits she has made in the past eight months, including two to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

First of all, Japan supports the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/604), including its recommendations to strengthen efforts to end impunity with regard to sexual violence as a tactic of war and terror. Among those recommendations, we strongly support the establishment of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements and the listing of perpetrators in an annex to the Secretary-General's annual reports, which are essential tools that the Security Council can use to take action, including targeted measures, against perpetrators.

As most here know, a number of child soldiers have been released in the five years since the establishment of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict under resolution 1612 (2005). Monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements to be established under today's resolution should build on that good practice. We expect that the arrangements and the mechanism will work synergistically with each other and will strengthen the response of the entire United Nations system to the challenge of how to protect women and children from sexual violence in conflict.

Secondly, a comprehensive approach is key, and it can be undertaken when the actors involved are proactive and engage in greater cooperation with each other. Under international law and the resolutions of the Security Council, it is the responsibility of the Government and army of a country in conflict to protect their people. To that end, the rule of law should be established by promoting security sector reform and enhancing the capacity of the judicial system and law enforcement. Japan therefore welcomes the preparations being made by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström to rapidly deploy a team of experts to assist national authorities in strengthening the rule of law.

It is critical to protect women from all forms of violence and to empower them within their society. For this reason, Japan has decided to make a contribution of $4.5 million to UN Women for its project in Afghanistan. It is also vital to strengthen the comprehensive response that is the responsibility of United Nations peacekeeping missions. We expect more women's protection advisors to be designated in the missions. And we welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to provide peacekeepers with clearer guidance, in line with good practice, regarding the response to sexual violence. In general, the Security Council needs to further strengthen the comprehensive response of peacekeeping missions through its country-specific resolutions.

Thirdly, sexual violence is never a by-product of conflict and it can be prevented. As the Secretary-General's report underlines, we need to focus not only on collecting timely and reliable information, but also on analysis of trends and patterns of sexual violence. Engaging all stakeholders — including national institutions, humanitarian actors and civil society — in the process of such analysis would contribute to the prevention of sexual violence.

One of the lessons learned from the mass rape in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in July and August this year is the need for communication between United Nations missions and the local community. I would like to stress that such communication could also provide early warning of imminent problems. The set of indicators for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will likewise be an important tool for providing early warning of sexual violence, and we hope that they will be operational at the earliest possible date. We also look forward to seeing an early warning matrix of risk factors developed by Special Representative Wallström.

Finally, in the two years that Japan has served its present term as a non-permanent member, the Security Council has adopted more resolutions and presidential statements on issues relating to women and children in conflict than it had in the past. We welcome this trend as a clear sign of the commitment of the Council to addressing these issues. There are, however, many challenges that must be faced in translating this

commitment into tangible results on the ground. For its part, Japan will continue to contribute to efforts to promote progress on the issue of women and peace and security from the perspective of human security.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): Let me first of all thank you, Madame, and your delegation for your outstanding work, which led to the adoption by consensus of resolution 1960 (2010) before us today. The resolution brings significant added value to the fight against sexual violence in armed conflict. We greatly appreciate the Secretary-General's unwavering commitment to this cause.

I would like to say a special word of welcome and thanks to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström and her team for their extremely significant contribution to the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009). Let me also express our great appreciation to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and in particular the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Military Advisor, for their efforts to strengthen protection and response in the field.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be made later on by the representative of the European Union and by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network.

The past two years have seen progress in the fight against sexual violence, in particular through the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. At the same time, the levels of sexual violence in many conflicts around the world remain alarmingly high. Women and children continue to fall victim to sexual violence used as a deliberate means of warfare on a daily basis. Some groups with specific vulnerabilities, such as persons with disabilities, have not yet received the necessary attention.

The extremely negative effect of sexual violence on peace processes, reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction clearly makes that crime a security threat. Sexual violence is not a mere by-product of war; it is more often than not a deliberate tactic of warfare. The Council, alongside affected States, has a clear responsibility to use all tools at its disposal to put an end to this scourge. Listing parties that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence; establishing monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; and monitoring the implementation of commitments by parties to armed conflict would significantly enhance a systematic consideration by the Council, and thus the Council's capacities to act.

Let me add that my delegation will continue to support the idea of establishing a Council working group in order to be able to afford a similar level of attention and response to the issue of sexual violence as is currently and rightly granted to children in armed conflict. This is a matter of credibility for the Security Council.

We hope that the information generated through the new system will help the Council when it considers its reactions to widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. From our point of view, possible reactions include the imposition of targeted measures, the establishment of commissions of inquiry and referrals to the International Criminal Court.

We welcome the recent arrests and extraditions of persons responsible for sexual violence and would like to encourage all countries concerned to take the necessary steps to bring them to justice. Furthermore, sanctions regimes need to include designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence, and sanctions committees need to receive relevant information to this end, including through exchanges with other subsidiary bodies of the Security Council and peacekeeping operations. We encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to build on emerging practice, brief sanctions committees and share relevant information on individuals committing sexual violence. No perpetrator of sexual violence should go unpunished. Equally transitional justice mechanisms need to document sexual violence in a comprehensive way and provide assistance and redress to the victims.

We welcome the appointment of the leader of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and encourage Member States affected by armed conflict to seek the support of the Team.

We are concerned by the high numbers of governmental security forces directly involved in sexual violence. The conditionality policy of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is an important

step in the right direction and should be extended to all United Nations peacekeeping missions. In light of the incorporation of former militia members into the national police and security structures, the establishment of vetting procedures is a crucial element of any integration process.

United Nations peacekeeping missions must also strengthen their prevention and protection capacities. We welcome efforts under way to develop scenario-based training materials, such as curricula based on the publication entitled "Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice". Also, the recruitment of more community liaison officers, including women, will significantly strengthen the ability of missions to interact with the local population and ensure that the voices of local women are better heard. We would like to encourage the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue its efforts in this regard. The Council should exert its influence to ensure that peace agreements refer to sexual violence, and we commend the efforts of the Secretary-General to address the underrepresentation of women in peace processes and negotiations and to enhance women's participation in all peacebuilding efforts.

Madame President, please rest assured that my delegation will remain closely engaged in issues of protection of civilians, among them in particular the protection from and prevention of sexual violence, after our membership in this body ends. We are looking forward to continuing our work with interested delegations and the United Nations system.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United States.

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General, Special Representative Wallström, Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Lieutenant General Gaye for their very powerful and insightful briefings. I also want to thank my colleagues on the Council for their very strong statements of support for resolution 1960 (2010), just adopted, as well as for the broad goals of fighting sexual violence and the rape of women around the world.

We are gathered because we all agree on the importance of addressing an issue that cries out for the world's conscience, and that is sexual violence in conflict. We agree that the challenge is urgent and immense. The human cost is all too real. Armed conflicts continue to have a devastating impact, particularly on women and girls. Rape, sexual assault and gender-based violence are all too often used deliberately and cynically as weapons of war, and the fight to end sexual violence has yet to be universally recognized as central to securing international peace and security.

Some still think that sexual violence is somehow a natural accompaniment of conflict. It is not. As the Secretary-General's report notes,

> "The myth that rape is an inevitable by-product of war is persistent and dangerously self-fulfilling" (*S/2010/604, para. 7*).

I hope that this meeting, in some small way, will help put an end to that myth and channel our shared commitment to confronting and combating sexual violence into concrete actions that improve the fate of women and girls.

The United States commends the United Nations, especially United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, for its leadership in finding effective ways to address this problem. We have been encouraged by the United Nations response and follow-up to the appalling August attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the additional steps it has taken to build mission-wide strategies to better protect civilians. The United Nations has increased random patrols, recruited more female peacekeepers and improved communications. It is also employing scenario-based training for peacekeepers to help combat sexual violence.

But obviously, more must still be done. We hope that the United Nations will continue to identify women's protection advisers and put them in more peacekeeping operations, and complete a gaps analysis of United Nations protection strategies.

In her brief tenure so far, Special Representative Wallström has brought leadership, passion and clarity to efforts to end impunity for the heinous crimes of sexual violence in conflict zones. She is playing a vital role in the United Nations efforts to support the response of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the horrifying mass rapes in Walikale, which has included the arrest of one of the perpetrators. The United States fully supports Special Representative Wallström in her work, and we encourage our fellow Member States to consider

additional voluntary contributions to support her mandate. We particularly hope that the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law will become a valuable tool in helping Member States develop appropriate judicial responses to sexual violence in conflict.

Data collection is also vital for non-humanitarian activities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. The resolution we adopted today will improve the collection and analysis of information required to better understand the patterns of sexual violence in armed conflict. Of course, better information by itself will not halt sexual violence, but it will inform our decisions as a Council and as Member States, and bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal.

We must also shine the international spotlight on the perpetrators and use this mechanism to inform targeted actions by the Council and by Member States. With improved information, the United Nations will be able to assist States in responding more robustly to these crimes. As in the Democratic Republic of the Congo after the Walikale rapes, we expect our actions to spur commanding officers to turn those who commit sexual violence over to the authorities to be brought to justice.

Finally, we cannot separate the challenge of sexual violence from the broader security issues facing the Council. Resolution 1960 (2010), its predecessors and our follow-up actions must send a clear message. We do not just condemn sexual violence and rape as weapons of war, but we are taking concrete steps to end it. We are working to make clear that rape and sexual violence are unacceptable and that perpetrators will face consequences. Our shared responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security includes a profound responsibility to safeguard the lives and the security of women and girls, who make up at least half of humankind.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): Allow me to first express my thanks to you, Madame President, for convening this debate on a topic that, as the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, I am particularly glad to see addressed.

All the United Nations world conferences on women have recognized the interlinkage between gender equality, development and peace. In 1995, at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Member States devoted a section of the Beijing Platform for Action to women and armed conflict, noting that women and girls were particularly affected by armed conflict because of their status in society and their sex. Member States also highlighted particular forms of violence against women in situations of armed conflict.

Fifteen years later, it is heartening to observe how much this issue has gained in visibility and traction. It is now taken up in various intergovernmental bodies, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission. Member States at the national level and civil society organizations are demonstrating their commitment to tackling this challenge through concrete action.

I welcome the presence and contribution of Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and her focus on addressing sexual violence in the context of the Secretary-General's campaign "Unite to End Violence against Women".

The Commission on the Status of Women, too, has contributed to advancing global policy on women, peace and security. At its forty-eighth session in 2004, the Commission considered women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding. In its agreed conclusions, the Commission recognized that women and girls were often subject to particular forms of violence and deprivation in armed conflict, and called for measures to prevent gender-based violence arising from armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, including sexual violence against women and girls. The agreed conclusions also urged Governments to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes.

In 2008, the Commission evaluated progress in the implementation of the 2004 agreed conclusions through an interactive dialogue. Many participants reported on initiatives to address sexual violence in armed conflict and to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping and security forces. They also highlighted the need to strengthen efforts at the national and international levels to address sexual violence in armed conflict as a threat to peace and security.

This year, the Commission also considered the question of violence against women as part of its follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, and held an interactive dialogue on the subject. Expert panellists, member States, United Nations system entities and non-governmental organizations were able to share their experiences and the results achieved. Despite the measures that have been taken to prevent and address violence against women, reports by the participants made it clear that it persists.

Efforts to address violence against women are often not comprehensive, consistent or sustained, and there continues to be insufficient coordination among relevant sectors. Knowledge regarding the scope, prevalence, impact and cost of violence against women remains inadequate, and capacities for collecting such data are insufficient. Greater efforts are necessary to collect more and better-quality information and data on violence against women to support policymakers in undertaking effective legislative and policy reforms, ensure the adequate provision of targeted and effective services, monitor trends and progress in addressing and eliminating violence against women, and assess the impact of measures taken.

In this context, the Council's effort to set up a mechanism for monitoring and reporting sexual violence against women may prove to be very useful, not only to the Council's work but also to other organizations working on issues pertaining to sexual violence against women and gender issues in general. Such a plan should incorporate measurable goals and timetables, monitoring and accountability measures and provisions for impact assessments.

The Commission on the Status of Women plays a central role in monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action, including with respect to women in armed conflict. I recognize and welcome the key role and critical efforts of the Security Council in preventing sexual violence and combating impunity in conflict and post-conflict situations. I encourages continuing action by the Council, including the development of effective measures to put an end to sexual violence in armed conflict.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Germany aligns itself with the statement that will be delivered by the representative of the European Union. Germany would like to thank the United States of America, in its capacity as presidency of the Security Council, for giving this important issue such a prominent role on this month's Council agenda.

The appointment of Ms. Wallström in February this year was an important signal that increased and focused action would be undertaken in the fight against the scourge of sexual violence in conflict. No one can deny that sexual violence in armed conflict is an abhorrent crime that in some conflict areas is systematically used to destabilize whole societies, and thus constitutes a serious security problem requiring a systematic response, including by the Security Council. With the adoption of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), the Council gave this issue the comprehensive and global attention it deserves. We therefore strongly welcome the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) and its recommendations, which are reflected in the new resolution 1960 (2010) adopted by the Security Council today. It is a good resolution. We commend all Security Council members for agreeing on this important document in such a short period of time. This underlines the urgency of the problem and shows that the Council is sincerely committed to tackling this issue.

As exact data is indispensable to taking timely and concrete action to prevent and react to sexual violence, Germany fully supports the creation of a new mechanism that may help to collect relevant data. This mechanism should work similarly to and in close cooperation with the one already existing on children and armed conflict, and also take into account the indicators endorsed by the Security Council in October during its open debate (see S/PV.6411) on resolution 1325 (2000).

Collecting data is not enough, but it is a much-needed first step in the fight against impunity. Perpetrators have to be brought to justice. Bearing in mind the main responsibility of States to investigate and prosecute those abominable crimes, international cooperation and the continued leadership of the Security Council are also of utmost importance. We therefore support the Secretary General's proposal to set up a listing and de-listing mechanism, such as that for sexual violence against children. Moreover, the Council must make full use of all existing instruments at its disposal, such as relevant sanctions committees, to address sexual violence, including by referring relevant cases to the International Criminal Court.

Moreover, we must strive to find better ways of guaranteeing the safety and physical integrity of women and children during armed conflict. This includes early warning mechanisms, as well as more awareness-raising campaigns and pertinent training, including the training of peacekeepers. Germany supports several training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns on sexual violence, in close cooperation with United Nations entities.

Finally, victims of sexual violence and abuse need help to treat the physical and mental scars left on them and their families and to enable them once again to actively participate in communal life. States must therefore provide adequate protection services and find prompt and non-bureaucratic ways to support victims, where appropriate with the help of the United Nations system. Germany commends the United Nations organizations on their valuable work in this field, including the important activities of the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which Germany has actively supported in the past.

Allow me to conclude by stressing that we can make progress only if all relevant entities within the United Nations system, including the newly-created UN Women, work together closely, while also actively involving civil society stakeholders.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): We thank the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, and would like to encourage her to continue her visits to countries that experience conflict-related sexual violence and to brief the Council on those visits in open meetings.

Liechtenstein co-sponsored resolution 1960 (2010) because it contains numerous valuable elements that enable the Council to address the alarming increase in sexual violence around the world. We agree with the analysis of the Secretary-General in his report (S/2010/604) that gender constructs are a critical but insufficient tool to understand the full complexity of sexual violence. We therefore welcome the approach detailed in the report to widen the analytical lens and to define sexual violence in accordance with the definitions used in international law, in particular the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Earlier resolutions and resolution 1960 (2010) emphasize the primary responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for crimes, including acts of sexual violence. Nevertheless, national justice systems often lack the willingness or the capacity necessary for effective prosecutions. We thus welcome the progress made with regard to the establishment of a Team of Experts that can be deployed rapidly to assist national justice systems. This is consistent with the principle of complementarity, which stipulates that international criminal justice mechanisms are activated only when States are unable or unwilling to prosecute at the national level.

As a particularly positive element, we welcome the inclusion in future reports of the Secretary-General of information on parties that are credibly suspected of being responsible for acts of sexual violence. This should provide a basis for the Council to formulate more focused responses, including, where necessary, the application of targeted measures and the consideration of accountability mechanisms.

Liechtenstein also supports the establishment of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence as another essential element of resolution 1960 (2010). The Council requires timely, accurate and reliable information in order to respond effectively to conflict-related sexual violence.

These are important achievements and we congratulate you, Madame President, on having forged a consensus on this text. At the same time, we also wish to place on record that we consider the resolution to be a missed opportunity. The Special Representative stated in her remarks that she has made the fight against impunity her priority since she took office. And indeed, this was corroborated by the substance of her briefing.

The Council, however, chose not to reflect that in the text adopted today. In fact, the operative part of resolution 1960 (2010) does not include any statement on the Council's commitment to end impunity, let alone on any concrete measures to that end. The resolution is also silent on the importance of the work carried out by the ad hoc tribunals established by the Council itself and by the International Criminal Court, to which the Council itself has referred a situation where sexual violence is prevalent.

This seems particularly ironic at a time when the mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have gained sad notoriety in any discussion on sexual violence in armed conflict, and when much of the recent work of the International Criminal Court has been dedicated to that situation, most prominently through the arrest of the militia leader Callixte Mbarushimana earlier this year. I also wish to recall that this was a situation referred to the Court by the country affected itself.

We thank the Secretary-General and the Special Representative for their clear reference to the importance of the work of the International Criminal Court with respect to combating sexual violence. We hope that, in future deliberations, the Council will be able to acknowledge the most concrete international efforts to fight impunity for sexual violence, and thus to be less disconnected from reality than the resolution makes it appear in this respect.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Goledzinowski (Australia): Like others who have spoken before me, Australia remains committed to ending the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence. Besides the outrageous breach of women's rights that rape and other forms of sexual violence entail, its impact on families and communities is particularly devastating and has consequent long-lasting negative effects on peace processes.

We welcome Ms. Wallström's appointment and the efforts she has made since taking office to plug some of the operational gaps in this agenda, as well as her broader advocacy efforts.

We support the Secretary-General's impressive recommendations on specific steps that need to be taken to address the remaining challenges in this field. The proposal for the United Nations system to set up a mechanism, on which agreement has now been achieved, to better monitor, report and analyse data on sexual violence and to ensure that information flows effectively to the Security Council is particularly important. We urge the Council's sanctions committees to give due regard to relevant information they receive through this mechanism. We recently witnessed the first listing of an individual by the Council's Democratic Republic of the Congo Sanctions Committee on children-and-armed-conflict grounds. Similar listings of individuals on sexual-violence grounds would be an important deterrent to others.

Of course, information flowing to the Council should be reliable. The Council's endorsement in October of the comprehensive set of indicators was a significant achievement in that regard. We look forward to the United Nations system putting those indicators into action to collect data on sexual violence, as well as to inform policy and programmatic responses.

Early warning signs of conflict-related sexual violence are often received. But as the mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in July and August sadly demonstrated, our coordinated and comprehensive analysis of those signs must be strengthened in order to improve the prospects for preventing attacks on civilians. Sexual violence is not unique in that regard. We encourage all relevant parts of the United Nations system to collaborate in identifying a comprehensive matrix of early warning signs and recommended responses. As we know, the Special Advisers on the prevention of genocide and on the responsibility to protect are also undertaking relevant and important work in this field. A coordinated and comprehensive approach to early warning will enhance the response capacity of peacekeepers on the ground.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) was particularly valuable because it identified practical, pragmatic ways in which this issue can be tackled. Australia is a firm supporter of tangible, practical solutions. There remains a gap between our collective expectations on what United Nations peacekeeping should be able to do and the actual capacity of peacekeepers on the ground. Operational guidance, training and resources must be provided to mission leadership and peacekeepers so that they are prepared to take action in response to threats against civilians during conflict, including sexual violence.

We were very pleased to support the joint analytical inventory developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Fund for Women under the auspices of the inter-agency network United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. This is a key tool for the Organization to use in improving its ability to protect civilians from conflict-related sexual violence as part of peacekeeping operations. We are supporting

our United Nations partners in fully operationalizing this tool, including by incorporating it into predeployment training for peacekeepers. That is the scenario-based training referred to in the Secretary-General's report.

We are also supporting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in implementing a strategy to combat sexual violence in communities of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North and South Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR's strategy of creating a common framework and actions for all those involved in combating sexual violence in that country could be applied in other situations involving IDPs.

Much more needs to be done to address this vital issue, as we have heard this evening. We look forward to further reporting and briefing on how the United Nations system has gone about translating into action the list of proposals in the Secretary-General's report. Annual reporting is needed. Next year a report could, for example, document action and achievements in addressing conflict-related sexual violence, including the development of terms of reference for the new women's protection advisers and any actions they undertake. Real and effective action to address sexual violence in conflict-related situations requires ongoing dedication to action. We look forward to the Council in particular taking forward that action on behalf not just of the United Nations or States Members, but the entire international community.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Ragaglini (Italy): I wish to congratulate you, Madame President, on organizing this open debate of the Security Council, as well as to commend your commitment to an issue of the utmost importance to the international community. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General, Special Representative Margot Wallström, Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy and Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, the Military Adviser, for their briefings, which have given us a clear picture of the serious challenges involved in protecting women from the scourge of sexual violence in conflict.

While Italy aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union later on, I wish to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start by expressing our deep appreciation for resolution 1960 (2010), which has been adopted today and which Italy was proud to have co-sponsored. By requesting the establishment of monitoring and reporting arrangements for conflict-related sexual violence, the Security Council has taken an important step forward. Timely and accurate information will enhance the Council's ability to track and deter this heinous crime. It will still be up to the Council to take the necessary measures to translate these elements into concrete action; which brings me to an issue that is often invoked in cases of human rights violations, namely, the impunity of perpetrators. We must reverse the social dynamics that allow sexual violence to perpetuate itself, moving from stigmatizing the victims to criminalizing the authors.

That goal can be achieved by various means: adopting sanctions or targeted measures, referring matters to the International Criminal Court when necessary and naming and shaming perpetrators at every opportunity. We therefore welcome the Council's decision to encourage the Secretary-General to list in his reports the parties who have engaged in patterns of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. That decision is a step in the right direction.

Conflict-related sexual violence is a threat to security and an impediment to peacebuilding in many parts of the world, not only in the crisis areas on the Council's agenda. In today's conflicts, sexual violence is not just collateral damage but an actual front-line strategy. There are two areas that we deem particularly important.

The first is the need to address sexual violence in peace and mediation processes. If women do not have a say in peace processes and sexual violence is not addressed in the agreements aimed at ending a conflict, gender-based discrimination and violence will remain embedded in society.

The second is the importance of giving systematic consideration to sexual violence in authorizations and renewals of peacekeeping and special political missions. Moreover, when missions are mandated, technical assessments of country situations should include gender expertise.

In 2008, Italy, in its capacity as a member of the Security Council, was one of the strongest advocates of resolution 1820 (2008), on sexual violence in conflict. We also supported the appointment of a Special

Representative of the Secretary-General. At the national level, we are finalizing a plan of action to implement resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. The draft plan includes the protection of women and girls from sexual violence. The specific focus is on the assistance, recovery and psycho-physical rehabilitation of victims, as well as on special training for our staff deployed in peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions.

In conclusion, Italy remains fully committed to implementing the resolutions of the Security Council in the area of women and peace and security, including the important resolution adopted today.

Mr. Schaper (Netherlands): The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement that will be made later by the representative of the delegation of the European Union.

The Netherlands would like to congratulate the Secretary-General on his excellent report (S/2010/604) and on its recommendations. We also wholeheartedly co-sponsored resolution 1960 (2010), which was introduced by the United States in its capacity as the current President of the Security Council. We agree with the emphasis on applying listing and de-listing criteria with regard to parties to armed conflict. The resolution provides concrete measures to define, implement and monitor specific and time-bound commitments — indispensable commitments, I would like to add.

The Netherlands is committed to strengthening the protection against and the prevention of conflict-related sexual violations and violence. We provide financial support to scenario-based training on sexual violence for United Nations peacekeepers, which is referred to both in the Secretary-General's report and in the new resolution. We believe that operational readiness with regard to sexual violence can increase effectiveness in the overall protection of civilians.

In addition, the Netherlands supports a training initiative on the protection of human rights and the prevention of sexual violence with the Congolese Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo. That innovative project makes use of footage from the award-winning documentary *Weapon of War*, about the perpetrators of sexual violence.

In the context of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) and of the third year of the Dutch national action plan, the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence jointly produced a publication entitled *The Dutch Do's on Women, Peace and Security — Diplomacy, Defence and Development in Partnership*. The publication describes the implementation of the Dutch integrated approach towards women, peace and security at the country level — for instance, by supporting the political participation of women in Afghanistan and by integrating gender training with security-sector development in Burundi and sexual violence issues in the Dutch support to the Congolese security sector.

Finally, we are pleased to announce bilateral collaboration between the Netherlands and Spain in the development of more civilian and military gender capacity so as to increase operational readiness. We have a responsibility to arrive well prepared at our respective missions, be they peacekeeping, military or civilian. That commitment resulted from a recent Spanish-Dutch seminar with troop-contributing countries on the subject of gender in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. One conclusion of the seminar was that sustainable peace and reconstruction could only be achieved by involving local communities and by supporting active roles for women.

That has implications for the way that United Nations and other missions are planned, but also for their composition. The Netherlands is committed to supporting such a development through practical contributions, such as training.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim Bonghyun (Republic of Korea): At the outset, allow me to thank you, Madame President, for convening an open debate on this important issue. My appreciation also goes to Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, for her comprehensive and informative presentation of the Secretary-General's report on this issue (S/2010/604).

As the Secretary-General's report states, over the past year, there has been much progress at the policy level on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009). In particular, we would like to commend the measures that it outlines to improve the collection of information on sexual violence that would lead to better monitoring, deeper analysis and more systematic reporting.

Despite that progress, the impact of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) has yet to be fully realized on the ground. Women and children continue to suffer disproportionately in areas of armed conflict. The use of sexual violence and brutality as weapons of war still prevails. The horrifying mass rapes that occurred in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in August were a stark reminder of how much remains to be done.

We must redouble our efforts to combat sexual violence in conflict. In that regard, the Republic of Korea supports the strong leadership of the Security Council and welcomes the package of measures that the Secretary-General suggests to accelerate the full implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009). Among others, my delegation would like to highlight the following three points.

First, it is essential to grasp the reality of sexual violence committed in armed conflict through reliable, timely and objective information, as well as to ensure that, in turn, perpetrators are identified and brought to justice. In that respect, we strongly support the Secretary-General's call for the Security Council to mandate that the Secretary-General's annual reports list those parties that have engaged in patterns of sexual violence in armed conflict. We believe that this measure would contribute to halting impunity by providing a basis for more focused approaches and targeted measures towards those parties.

Secondly, preventing and responding to sexual violence require a more coherent and coordinated approach within the United Nations system. For example, a more integrated strategic framework between peacekeeping missions and United Nations country teams should be established to formulate mission objectives targeted at women and peace and security, as well as to evaluate their implementation. We hope that UN Women, which will come into operation in January 2011, will play a leading role in coordinating various activities related to the work on women and peace and security among United Nations entities.

Thirdly, we need to increase the participation of women in peace processes and to strengthen their capacity. The full participation of women, particularly local women, in such efforts is essential to creating inclusive and sustainable peace. Research conducted by the United Nations Development Fund for Women demonstrates that, since 1992, women have, on average, made up less than 8 per cent of the participants in official delegations to peace processes. Where women have participated in peace negotiations, the resulting peace agreements are more likely to reflect women's experiences of conflict and to contain elements of judicial, economic, social and political remedies for the abuses that they have suffered.

On its part, the Republic of Korea has been active in implementing resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) by mainstreaming a gender-sensitive approach in all its policies and activities and by increasing women's participation at all levels. In that regard, we recently deployed a gender adviser as a member of an Afghanistan provincial reconstruction team. We will remain committed to the complete and successful implementation of the resolutions.

Finally, I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere hope that today's open debate will guide us further by resulting in a clearer direction and concrete measures that will advance our noble endeavours for women and peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. McNee (Canada): I wish to thank the United States for convening this open debate on conflict-related sexual violence and to say that Canada was very happy to co-sponsor resolution 1960 (2010), which was adopted today.

Canada strongly supports the Security Council's recognition of the need to take effective measures to address conflict-related sexual violence and welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/604) pursuant to resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), including their recommendations. The systemic acts of sexual violence recently perpetrated in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo starkly demonstrate the urgent need for serious action.

Canada welcomes today's presentation by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström, and strongly supports her efforts to provide strategic leadership and strengthen United Nations coordination mechanisms in order to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. Addressing sexual violence demands a double focus: ensuring women's empowerment and participation, while also focusing on matters of accountability and justice.

In this sense, preventing, addressing and eliminating sexual violence requires cultural, societal and institutional changes. Canada calls on Member States and the United Nations system to ensure that Ms. Wallström's Office is adequately resourced and capable of timely action to support such changes. We also suggest to the Council that it request regular briefings by the Special Representative following her visits to countries on its agenda.

Canada's long-standing support for the rights and well-being of women and girls in situations of conflict is reflected through our continuing active implementation of Council resolutions, including through strong advocacy work, significant international programming addressing sexual violence, support for civil society and efforts to strengthen international criminal justice mechanisms. Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, adopted in October, will help us to focus and coordinate implementation of our commitments and increase the effectiveness of Canada's response.

Canada welcomes the jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals confirming that rape and sexual violence can be war crimes and crimes against humanity. Individuals responsible for these crimes must be brought to justice; that includes those responsible by virtue of command responsibility. Canada calls on Member States to ensure that these crimes are investigated and that those responsible for committing serious crimes are held to account.

In addition, as recognized in resolution 1820 (2008), we also strongly support the exclusion of crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of peace processes. Furthermore, Canada calls on all parties to conflict to make specific commitments to ceasing all acts of sexual violence, and urges the Council to support the efforts of United Nations officials to engage in dialogue with parties to elicit commitments to that effect.

Canada also calls on the Council to increase pressure on States to hold perpetrators of sexual violence to account through adoption of sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities that have perpetrated sexual violence. This must, of course, be done in accordance with standards of due process. We also support the Secretary-General's recommendation to make public in his annual reports the names of parties who engage in patterns of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

Systematic data collection on grave violations of women's and girls' human rights, including on sexual violence, is of the utmost importance in effective monitoring and response. In order to tailor the international response to specific contexts, it is also important that all relevant country reports to the Security Council include information on the situation that pertains to all aspects of the resolutions on women, peace and security, in addition to information on sexual violence. United Nations reporting on the movement and activities of armed groups, for example, should systematically include information on the threat of sexual violence. With this in mind, Canada supports the recommendation to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence.

(*spoke in French*)

The prevention of and response to sexual violence should also be included in the mandates of all United Nations peacekeeping missions. To that end, the Council must design and implement mandates to support peace efforts that better respond to all forms of violence against civilians, and ensure that strategies for combating sexual violence in conflict are integrated into the work of United Nations country teams. Local organizations devoted to protecting women often assess the ongoing threat of sexual violence in their communities.

For those reasons, networks among United Nations peacekeepers, local and international non-governmental organizations and women's networks must be strengthened to facilitate the establishment of early warning mechanisms on conflict-related sexual violence. Consequently, we welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations this year, through the Open Days on Women, Peace and Security, to engage in dialogue with local communities and women's groups. We noted at the time that the most frequent protection concern raised by participants was the level of sexual violence during and after conflict and the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of those crimes. We call on the United Nations to pursue dialogue with local communities and women's groups so that the international community can respond effectively to these issues.

To conclude, we are encouraged by the additional measures proposed in the Secretary-General's report.

Canada calls on the Security Council to take action today to respond to the report's recommendations so that the international community can undertake active and coordinated efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Luxembourg.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): Luxembourg congratulates the United States presidency of the Council on organizing this open debate, which gives us an opportunity to review the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) and the challenges still to be addressed in order to fight effectively against sexual violence in conflict situations. We welcome the Council's adoption of resolution 1960 (2010), which we had the honour of co-sponsoring, as we did for resolution 1888 (2009) a year ago also under your presidency, Madame. We hope that the Council will proceed with determination to ensure the use of these new mechanisms and implementation of the new resolution.

Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement to be made by the representative of the European Union.

In his report (S/2010/604), the Secretary-General provides a relevant analysis of sexual violence committed in the course of conflicts. We welcome the follow-up that the Council has devoted to the report, in particular to the Secretary-General's recommendation to create a monitoring, analysis and reporting system that will allow the Council and the United Nations system as a whole to receive timely, objective, accurate and reliable information on which to base their interventions. This system will also help to improve efforts in the field of prevention, since trends and early warning indicators will be better known.

As the Secretary-General notes in his report, impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence remains the norm in the vast majority of countries where it occurs. This impunity risks undermining public confidence in the nascent justice and security sectors and eroding the whole process of peacebuilding. It is therefore essential for the Security Council to step up pressure on the perpetrators of sexual violence. We welcome the Council's intention to consider sexual violence as a criterion for applying sanctions against individuals. The recommendations made in that regard by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict will be most important.

We warmly welcome the fact that the Council also encourages the Secretary-General to list in an annex to his annual reports the parties that have systematically engaged in acts of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Council agenda. However, we would have preferred that the Secretary-General could also have been invited to provide information on perpetrators of sexual violence in other conflicts and situations, which should not escape the attention of the international community.

We must all redouble our efforts to contribute to better protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Let me dwell for a moment on some initiatives that my Government has decided to support since our debate on women and peace and security in October (6411th meeting).

The mass rapes in Walikale in the Democratic Republic of the Congo this summer were a brutal reminder of how sexual violence continues to be used as a weapon of war. In that context, Luxembourg has just decided to make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the financing of a training programme for 120 trainers and thus help to professionalize the Congolese national police. That training will also raise awareness among the members of the Congolese police with regard to sexual violence and will give them the ability to better protect women and children against acts of sexual violence.

At the same time, in a broader context, Luxembourg has just decided to fund a major project of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is aimed at strengthening the leadership and participation of women in peacebuilding activities in countries emerging from conflict. That project includes the organization of several meetings at national and regional levels — one on West Africa, the other the Great Lakes region — to facilitate the exchange of good practices in that regard. The protection of women and girls against sexual violence will also be discussed in that context.

Luxembourg will continue to pay close attention to the needs of women and children in conflict situations. We encourage the Security Council not to relent in its efforts to achieve concrete progress and

reduce the suffering of women and children in conflict situations.

Mr. Viinanen (Finland): I have the honour to address the Council on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

At the outset, let me thank the United States for leading the Council's work in its efforts to address the scourge of sexual violence in conflict. Sexual violence is a grave violation of human rights and a threat to the health and lives of the victims and of their communities. And let me be clear: sexual violence is a serious impediment to peace, security and development. Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) — the latter adopted today — complement in important and concrete ways the landmark resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security by recognizing sexual violence as a security issue and a possible war crime and in adding provisions on protection, monitoring and enforcement tools. The Nordic countries fully support the resolutions and the Council's work.

Let me also thank and give further encouragement to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Margot Wallström and to United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. Special Representative Wallström's briefing to the Council and the insightful report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/604) show that all possible synergies and joint efforts are needed for the United Nations to support national Governments in their efforts to fulfil their responsibilities to prevent and effectively respond to sexual violence.

Preventing sexual violence should be our highest priority. Unfortunately, in many conflict situations, national Governments and the United Nations alike have failed to protect civilians from violence. Widespread impunity in conflict situations has led to a culture of impunity and the "normalization" of sexual violence after the conflict has ended.

Better monitoring and reporting, effective measures against impunity and comprehensive reparations for victims all contribute to prevention, and that is why I am focusing on these aspects today.

We fully support the Secretary-General's recommendations to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including the listing of those parties who commit sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. We further support the Secretary-General's call for a coherent and coordinated approach at the field level. We are therefore very pleased that the resolution adopted by the Council today endorses those recommendations in full.

It is also of crucial importance that the information gathered reaches the Council and its sanctions committees in a timely manner. In that regard, we welcome the intention of the Council to ensure the flow of information from the field to the Security Council and to take action based on that information.

Monitoring, reporting and sanctions are not ends in themselves. Their aim is to change behaviour and promote adherence to national and international law. We were therefore particularly happy to note that resolution 1960 (2010) also endorses the Secretary-General's proposal for a dialogue with parties to armed conflict, where verified behavioural change will lead to delisting, while sanctions will be applied against persistent violators.

All of those provisions together build a long-awaited mechanism for accountability for sexual violence, and we congratulate the Council for its decision.

Investigating and prosecuting all acts of conflict-related sexual violence are both legal obligations and powerful deterrents. This includes holding commanders accountable for ordering, condoning or failing to prevent acts of sexual violence committed by troops under their control. We must find ways to strengthen national judicial systems and processes, including through the deployment of the teams of experts on the rule of law. In some instances it may be necessary to refer cases to the International Criminal Court (ICC). We also encourage the Council to use other mechanisms at its disposal, such as fact-finding commissions and commissions of inquiry.

Justice should always be sought with the perspective of survivors in mind. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has recently convened a panel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where survivors of sexual violence gave their views on justice and reparations. The findings support a holistic approach encompassing not only access to justice, judicial remedies and financial reparations, but

also attention to the security, health, education and economic needs of the affected communities.

Nordic countries contribute to the ICC's Trust Fund for Victims and support the work of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. We also support a large number of local and international organizations engaged in rehabilitation for survivors of sexual violence.

The Nordic countries promote women's participation at all stages of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and peacebuilding processes. Sexual violence should always be addressed in peace and ceasefire agreements, and no amnesty should be granted for such abuses.

The Nordic countries support the efforts of UN Women and the Department of Political Affairs in developing guidance for mediators on addressing sexual violence in peace negotiations. We also welcome and support their Joint Strategy on Gender and Mediation. We believe that it will be an effective tool for strengthening women's participation in peace processes and for providing expertise and guidance to the parties and the mediators. Leaving sexual violence unaddressed undermines the very purpose of a peace agreement: peace and security for all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Reuben (Israel): I thank you, Madame President, for your delegation's leadership in holding this very important debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General Le Roy, Special Representative Wallström and Military Adviser Gaye for their valuable briefings.

In the 10 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we have seen some positive steps to prevent sexual violence in conflict. Unfortunately, overall progress is slow. Israel joined the list of sponsors of resolution 1960 (2010), recognizing the urgent need for collective action on this pressing issue. As a co-sponsor of the previous resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), Israel remains deeply committed to their full implementation. We welcome the increased deployment of gender advisers, the routine inclusion of provisions in peacekeeping mandates that protect women and girls from sexual violence, and the growing awareness of the need to include women in any peacemaking process.

Israel welcomes the Secretary-General's report of 24 November (S/2010/604) and commends him for his efforts and leadership on this issue. The report documents how widespread acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence — too often committed with impunity — continue to plague many zones of conflict. As Special Representative Wallström has made clear in various forums, including the Security Council, sexual violence in conflict is neither cultural nor sexual; it is criminal.

Acts of sexual violence are horrific crimes against individuals. Women, girls and boys who are raped are not only heartlessly robbed of their basic dignity during the time of the crime, but also bear the scars of those appalling acts long after hostilities have ceased. No amount of compensation can heal those wounds. The sad reality is that most victims are forgotten, and the perpetrators of the unspeakable crimes against them are never brought to justice. When committed in armed conflict and employed deliberately and systematically, such acts constitute a weapon of war designed to inflict suffering, instil fear and destroy the social fabric of communities and families. As is rightly emphasized in the Secretary-General's report,

> "Depending on the circumstances of the offence, sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, an act of torture or a constituent act of genocide" (*S/2010/604, para. 4*).

The Secretary-General's report provides a number of important recommendations for improving the international community's efforts on this issue. There is a growing consensus about the need for timely, objective and accurate monitoring and reporting arrangements for incidents of sexual violence to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to addressing violations and enforcing accountability. We support the listing of perpetrators of sexual violence, as encouraged by resolution 1960 (2010). This can serve as a means for advancing more focused measures for combating such atrocities when they occur.

Israel strongly supports the mandate that created the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and recognizes that Special Representative Wallström will play a pivotal role in addressing the issue. The newly formed UN Women, led by Executive Director Michelle Bachelet, also has a central role to play and is

well positioned to work with the entire United Nations system.

The impact of sexual violence in conflict can be measured in the overwhelming pain it has inflicted on women and men, in the devastation it has wrought in communities and in the instability it continues to foster throughout entire regions. Israel believes that Member States, individually and collectively, must take firm action to curb this serious threat to human dignity and peace.

Together, we must make clear that the international community has zero tolerance for the perpetrators of sexual violence in armed conflict and will bring them to justice wherever they carry out their appalling and destructive crimes.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

Ms. Anderson (Ireland): This is an urgent and necessary debate. Amid the glow of the holiday season, it is all the more difficult for our imaginations to comprehend the horror and brutality of sexual violence on the scale to which the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) attests. The contrast could not be more shocking between the civility of our lives here and the depravity of sexual violence so widely associated with conflict. The report and resolution 1960 (2010) connect the two worlds. They signal the determination of the international community to stand with the victims and to deal with the perpetrators.

Conflict and sexual violence feed off one another. The poisonous interrelationship is fully demonstrated in the Secretary-General's report. This is an excellent report, clear and dispassionate in its analysis and incisive in its recommendations. Ireland strongly supports the full range of recommendations and welcomes the extent to which they have been reflected in the resolution. Each of the operative paragraphs of the resolution must be followed up with vigour. In her compelling opening address today, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström spelled out the standards to which we must hold ourselves. I wish to make a few comments that draw on Ireland's experience in United Nations peacekeeping and on our involvement in cross-learning processes.

Our extensive engagement in United Nations peacekeeping has taught us that the triggers for sexual violence and the entry points for influence are different from one case to another. But there are some common points. In all situations, active monitoring and timely reporting are critical. Without them, early warnings will be missed, policymaking will not be properly founded, and perpetrators will slip through the cracks. Almost always, too, there are groups that are particularly vulnerable and need specific and special protection. Again and again, one sees the pattern of preying on refugees and internally displaced persons, especially those — mostly women — who have to venture outside villages and camps in search of water and firewood.

The recent deployment of Irish defence forces with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad has left us with some reflections. Our experience of that deployment was that, by raising awareness of human rights, of the unacceptability of sexual and gender-based violence and of the responsibilities of Government and other parties, the Mission helped to foster a climate in which communities were less likely to tolerate and more likely to report acts of sexual violence. That was certainly a positive lesson that a peacekeeping mission, operating as intended, can raise consciousness and change tolerance standards in communities.

But helping to change attitudes and standards brings a follow-up responsibility. It cannot be right that communities are left with new ways of looking at things but — with the international presence gone — no means to ensure that new standards are implemented. This is where the continuum between peacekeeping and peacebuilding really matters. In many peacekeeping contexts, an effectively functioning domestic judicial or penal system is lacking. Although international peacekeepers can temporarily fulfil a very important role, tackling sexual violence ultimately necessitates support for a wide range of capacity-building, training and infrastructural development activities. This may not be quick or easy, but only such an integrated approach will ensure that the scourge of sexual violence in conflict is dealt with in a sustainable and lasting way.

A further source of insight for us has been the cross-learning process on women, peace and security that Ireland conducted in partnership with Liberia and Timor-Leste. This innovative initiative drew on the experiences of those directly affected by conflict in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Liberia and Timor-Leste to discuss the most critical issues facing women and girls

in conflict and post-conflict settings. The report on the process, which we presented to Under-Secretary-General Bachelet on 25 October, highlights a number of important points.

Among the particular priorities stressed throughout this initiative were the need to fight against the culture of impunity in relation to sexual violence, to exclude sex crimes from amnesties, to improve women's access to formal, traditional and transitional justice, to increase awareness among family members and community leaders of issues surrounding sexual and gender-based violence, to enhance capacity to prosecute sex crimes, and to incorporate reporting on sexual and gender-based violence into early warning systems.

Ireland is already seeking to take these recommendations forward. For example, sexual and gender-based violence has been incorporated as an indicator into an Irish Government-funded early warning/early response system in Timor-Leste.

Let me conclude by reiterating our unequivocal support for Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström and her Office, as well as our appreciation for the incremental steps that are being taken by the Security Council on this issue. The perpetrators of crimes of sexual violence now know that they are caught in the headlamps of Security Council attention. Slowly but surely, the darkness in which they took refuge is being dissipated.

In this season that reminds us all of our common humanity, I can think of no more appropriate message from the Security Council than today's expression of support for and solidarity with victims of sexual violence in conflict.

The President: There are a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. I therefore intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 10 a.m. tomorrow, 17 December.

The meeting was suspended at 6.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6453 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6453rd meeting

Friday, 17 December 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Heissel
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Kuljanin
	Brazil	Mr. Figueiróa
	China	Ms. Teng Chen
	France	Mr. Gonnet
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Teruuchi
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Mexico	Ms. Montemayor de Teresa
	Nigeria	Mr. Edokpa
	Russian Federation	Mr. Tolkach
	Turkey	Ms. Dinç
	Uganda	Mrs. Kafeero
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mrs. Stevens

Agenda

Women and peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) (S/2010/604)

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The meeting resumed at 10.10 a.m. on 17 December.

The President: I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. I shall now invite Mr. Peter Schwaiger, Deputy Head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Schwaiger: The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union would like to thank the Secretary-General for his presence yesterday at the open debate. We are also grateful for the presentation of his Special Representative, Madame Wallström, and would like to express our gratitude to Under-Secretary-General Le Roy and Military Adviser Lieutenant General Gaye for all the efforts undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to combat sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict countries.

Continuing evidence of daily sexual violence in armed conflict and fragile countries underscores the need to intensify our efforts to prevent and combat such violence. Although attention has been focused on the Democratic Republic of Congo, alarming reports have also been coming from other countries, including countries that are not on the Council's current agenda. Impunity continues to prevail for most acts of sexual violence committed in the course of recent conflicts. The European Union (EU) therefore warmly welcomes the present report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) (S/2010/604).

The EU calls on the Security Council and all States Members of the United Nations to redouble their efforts, notably in the fight against impunity. Often, amnesty is given in the name of peace to combatants who have used sexual torture or sexual violence as a tactic of war. But there can be no sustainable peace without prosecution of perpetrators and justice for victims. Targeted and appropriately tailored measures should be imposed on all parties to a conflict responsible for grave instances of sexual violence. Perpetrators should be held accountable. Data collection and follow-up on the prosecution of sexual offenders requires urgent strengthening.

At the Security Council's open debate on the subject held on 26 October, the European Union reiterated its firm call for the reinforcement of global monitoring of situations pertaining to sexual violence in armed conflict. The recommendations of the Secretary-General in the current report provide concrete suggestions in that regard, and the European Union fully endorses those recommendations. The call to establish monitoring and reporting arrangements is particularly noteworthy. Robust monitoring arrangements will enable the Council to track, deter and combat the use of systematic sexual violence in conflict situations.

The European Union warmly welcomes the adoption yesterday of resolution 1960 (2010) on sexual violence in situations in armed conflict. We urge the Security Council to build on its strong commitment to that issue and to ensure the full implementation of that and all other relevant resolutions.

The Security Council should adopt a zero-tolerance approach by including issues of sexual violence as a priority element in resolutions establishing the mandates for its sanctions committees, and the mandates should explicitly include sexual violence as a criterion for the designation of political and military leaders for targeted measures.

The Security Council should also reaffirm its commitment to integrating the gender equality dimension and the protection of civilians from sexual and gender-based violence into the mandates of peacekeeping operations. The connections between violence against women and the ability of women to participate in conflict prevention and management, as well as in peacebuilding and development, must be better understood. Local populations need a focal point for reporting instances of sexual violence. Furthermore, sexual exploitation or abuse by United Nations troops or United Nations staff is totally unacceptable.

The European Union supports the United Nations in its efforts to combat violence against women, including the work of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström. The European Union also closely collaborates with the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict,

Radhika Coomaraswamy, and has recently reiterated its support for the implementation of the monitoring mechanism set up by resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) by revising the EU implementation strategy on children and armed conflict.

I would now like to briefly elaborate on some recent European Union activities undertaken in response to resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), and complementing individual actions by EU member States.

Fighting all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, including in armed conflict but not excluding other situations of concern, is among the key objectives of the EU's human rights policy in external relations. In July 2010, the European Union adopted 17 monitoring indicators for its comprehensive approach on the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). In addition to over the €300 million set aside for programmes addressing the needs and rights of women and girls in conflict-affected and post-conflict situations in over 67 countries, significant new funds will be made available for civil society projects.

In October of this year, the European Union and the African Union organized a joint civil society seminar on women, peace and security in Addis Ababa. In 2012, we plan to organize a workshop on the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on our two continents, and we are currently looking for ways to support the training of African peacekeepers and the African Standby Force in human rights and gender issues and to increase the number of women in such contingents.

The European Union has recently conducted the first-ever lessons-learned exercise on mainstreaming human rights and gender within its Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations. It has just adopted standard training modules on human rights, child protection and gender to be used as a baseline reference by all 27 EU member States.

EU crisis management missions, 13 of which are currently ongoing, all have advisers or focal points on gender, and many carry out specific actions in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence.

In closing, the European Union reiterates its strong support for the work of the United Nations in combating sexual violence in armed conflict and warmly welcomes the Secretary-General's report and most particularly the resolution adopted yesterday.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): I would like to thank you, Madame President, and the United States of America, for your initiative to convene this important open debate. I would also like to thank Margot Wallström, the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/604). I commend all Council members for the adoption of resolution 1960 (2010), which Portugal had the honour to co-sponsor. That action-oriented resolution is already a landmark, and I am convinced that it will indeed make a difference, especially for women and girls, in so many parts of the world.

Portugal obviously shares the views that were expressed by the European Union regarding the implementation of the resolution, but let me underline some aspects of particular significance to my country. The excellent report before us today provides us with a clear analytical framework for understanding sexual violence in conflict as a threat to security and an impediment to peacebuilding in situations on the Council's agenda. It also examines the causes and consequences of sexual violence in local communities, as well as its consequences for the conflict and the peace process itself. Moreover, the report provides us with very useful information on the significant progress made in implementing resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) with the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as with the establishment of a Team of Experts on the Rule of Law, in order to assist national authorities in reinforcing judicial systems weakened by conflict.

We must recognize that much has been done. The legal framework exists. Under international law, the definition of sexual violence is clear and, depending on the circumstances, can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, an act of torture or a constituent act of genocide. These crimes may entail individual criminal responsibility, including that of commanders.

With the appointment of Special Representative Wallström and, subsequently, of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law, with the presence of United Nations agencies and peacekeeping missions in the field, the Council should have the tools necessary to obtain reliable and accurate information on sexual

violence. This is an issue of particular importance to helping the Council discharge its responsibilities.

Concerning the Council's action on this issue, we believe that the Council has been quite successful but that it still needs to reinforce its effectiveness. The mass rapes in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in July and August emphasize the need for further action by the international community. We can certainly consolidate and make full use of existing tools by ensuring adequate funding for the Office of the Special Representative and for the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law, and by assessing the need for women's protection advisers in relevant peacekeeping operations.

I would underline two aspects where the Council could become more effective.

The first aspect is the need to improve the Council's access to timely, objective, accurate and reliable information on sexual violence in situations on its agenda. In this regard, Portugal strongly supports the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and the decision taken yesterday by the Council to establish a monitoring and reporting system on sexual violence in conflict in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach at the field level and at Headquarters. The good practices of the mechanisms created by the Council to monitor the situation of children in armed conflicts should guide our action, and we hope that these mechanisms will enjoy the same level of success to combat sexual violence in armed conflicts.

The second aspect is the Council's action. Indeed, a Council that is better informed is also in a better position to take action. With sufficient information, the Council will be able to take, in a timely manner, further steps to influence parties to conflict to comply with international law and to make specific commitments regarding the prevention of sexual violence or the investigation of alleged abuses. However, if these measures do not restrain the perpetration of sexual violence, the Council needs to follow-up on resolution 1888 (2009). In this regard, Portugal welcomes the decision of the Council to use information available in the reports of the Secretary-General as a basis for a more focused United Nations engagement with those responsible for such acts. This should be understood as sending a clear message to perpetrators of sexual violence that the Council is ready to apply sanctions to perpetrators who have been identified or who are credibly suspected of committing sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on its agenda.

Finally, let me assure the Council of our constant support to the Special Representative in her difficult but very important tasks.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Seger (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): We are here today to concretize the strategic lines of action developed in resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) to fight conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls. We therefore thank you, Madame, for organizing today's open debate. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/604), which provides an excellent basis for today's discussion, and wish to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, for her excellent work. Her mandate is important and challenging. We assure her of our full support and encourage her to build strong synergies with the United Nations operational system.

The Secretary-General's report explicitly states, and we probably all agree, that this year was further proof of our inability to prevent sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. We need to do better in the future. The recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General indicate the way to advance, and we fully support them all. In particular, we should like to highlight the following points and call on the Security Council to take action accordingly.

First, Switzerland supports the establishment of a monitoring, analysis and reporting mechanism, as provided for in resolution 1960 (2010), adopted yesterday. The mechanism will collect timely, objective, accurate and reliable information about conflict-related sexual violence, for example on incidents, trends and patterns. Such information should be provided by competent and well-coordinated sources on the field and serve as a basis for concerted action by the Security Council. The mechanism should take into consideration the experience of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict identified in resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). With a separate mechanism for women and girls, the Council would assure consistency in countering the use of

systematic sexual violence in conflict situations on its agenda.

Secondly, it is important to increase pressure on conflict parties and individuals to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law, and to enhance efforts to end impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. To that end, the Security Council has a range of tools including, but not limited to, the use of the sanction system or the competence to refer matters to the International Criminal Court. We encourage the Security Council to make full use of the available tools in order to give teeth to measures concerning women, peace and security.

Thirdly, we support the idea that all parties to conflict should prepare specific plans of action for ending acts of sexual violence in conflict situations on the Council's agenda. This would enable the international community to provide specific support to the actors concerned in fulfilling their obligations. Further, it would contribute to a transparent and objective follow-up by the Security Council. The deployment of rapid response teams on the rule of law, as provided for in resolution 1888 (2009), is an example of such support. In this context, we would like to mention the Justice Rapid Response initiative, initiated by Canada and supported by my country. The initiative provides, for example, rapidly deployable criminal justice professionals who collect information in cases of sexual violence in a timely fashion.

Fourthly, we encourage United Nations agencies to continue efforts to increase the capacity of their personnel in matters of conflict-related sexual violence. This is particularly important with a view to the establishment of a monitoring and reporting arrangement. Resolution 1888 (2009) introduced the mandate for women's protection advisors who, once operational, will provide additional, important points of reference for the women-protection efforts.

Finally, we invite the Council to systematically link thematic and geographical issues. When considering a conflict situation, it is crucial to include a thematic perspective, because the thematic issues on the Council's agenda are cross-cutting issues. To link that to today's subject — as deplorable as it is, sexual violence has become characteristic of many conflicts. It therefore calls for a consistent approach by the Council.

Lastly, I should like to reiterate that we fully associate ourselves with the statement to be delivered later by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network.

The issue discussed in this open debate is high among our priorities. We remain committed to contributing to achieving the goals of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Slovenia.

Ms. Štiglic (Slovenia): Allow me first to thank the United States for organizing this important open debate. I should also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström and the Council's other invitees for their briefings.

I would also like to align Slovenia with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union and the statement to be delivered by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network.

In contemporary conflicts, sexual violence is not a side effect but, rather, a front line consideration. Civilians, mostly women and girls, are often the deliberate targets of such violence. Sexual violence in conflict situations is frequently invisible but rarely non-existent. The international community was shocked by the reported mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of Congo in July and August this year. However, alarming news on sexual violence is also coming from other conflict and post-conflict situations.

Sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations takes many forms, not just rape. Under international law, sexual violence constitutes different forms of crimes and acts. Although the victims of sexual violence are predominantly women and girls, we should not forget that sexual violence is also committed against boys and men. The current report (S/2010/604) of the Secretary-General gives a very good overview of the issue of conflict-related sexual violence in general, and specifically about the situations in countries on the Security Council's agenda. Slovenia welcomes the progress made in carrying out the five-point priority agenda of the Special Representative. We also welcome the recommendations in Secretary-General's report.

It is of the utmost importance to prevent the continuing sexual violence by fighting impunity. In that regard, the role of international criminal justice should be recognized, in particular that of the International Criminal Court. Slovenia supports the recommendation to increase pressure on the perpetrators of sexual violence, as well as those in the chain of command responsible for such acts, through the adoption of sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities by the relevant sanctions committees.

As timely, objective, accurate and reliable information is fundamental in addressing conflict-related sexual violence, Slovenia supports the recommendation to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism that wou'd build on the experience and practice of the mechanism established under resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), on children and armed conflict.

There is yet much to be done in the area of victim assistance. Disabled women face heightened vulnerability to sexual violence and exploitation. It is commendable that, in recognition of the risk faced by women maimed or wounded by antipersonnel landmines, sexual violence has been specifically included in the 2010 gender guidelines for mine action programmes that have been developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

We look forward to the strategic framework on civilian protection and the series of scenario-based training modules, which will also address sexual violence, that are being finalized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. We support the recent United Nations activities on this issue aimed at finalizing training materials for United Nations and national police, including the development of gender guidelines for military personnel in peacekeeping operations that also address the protection of women and girls from sexual violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Council that, a month ago, Slovenia adopted its 2010-2015 national action plan for the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). One of the three main objectives of the plan is to prevent sexual violence against women and girls and to protect them during and after armed conflict. Furthermore, the action plan includes measures to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and conflict prevention, as well as in peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

In conclusion, I would like emphasize that sexual violence poses an obstacle to peace and security. It impedes women from participating in peace and democratic processes and in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation. As a tool of war it can become a way of life: once entrenched in the fabric of society, it lingers long after the guns have fallen silent. Many women lose their health, livelihoods, husbands, families and support networks as a result of rape. This, in turn, can shatter the structures that anchor community values, and with that disrupt their transmission to future generations. Children accustomed to acts of rape can grow into adults who accept such acts as the norm. This vicious cycle must stop, as we cannot accept a selective zero-tolerance policy. Today's adoption of resolution 1960 (2010), on sexual violence, is an important step in that direction. It is for that reason that Slovenia joined in co-sponsoring it.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Colombia would like to associate itself with the expressions of gratitude for the holding of this debate, which will certainly contribute to increasing understanding and awareness of this tragic aspect of armed conflict. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/604), and Special Representative of the Secretary General Margot Wallström for her excellent presentation yesterday.

Allow me first to emphasize the importance of the role of the United Nations in promoting the participation of women in achieving peace, security and development, as well as in the initiatives undertaken in response to the problem of sexual violence in conflicts.

Colombia endorses the repeated statements issued by the Security Council in connection with all acts of sexual violence and other violence against civilians in armed conflict, in particular against women and children. We regret the fact that, despite those statements, various armed groups continue to commit such acts.

International efforts by the Organization, in particular the establishment of UN Women, contribute

to strengthening coordination and cooperation in the implementation of mandates on women peace and security. Broad and inclusive intergovernmental consultations to assess the gender architecture and the advancement of women, as well as agreement among States as to the models and practices to be adopted on this topic, are fundamental to making progress in enhancing national capacities to eliminate sexual violence in conflict.

Strengthening the rule of law as an essential element in the search for lasting solutions to sexual violence in conflict is one aspect addressed in the report of the Secretary General. My delegation would like to highlight that approach and to encourage the United Nations to continue to broaden it.

The work done in this area by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme has our full support.

Resolution 1888 (2009) includes provisions for increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. We agree that their participation in that regard contributes to creating an atmosphere of trust in which women and children can expose the abuses to which they are subjected. We also believe that their inclusion can generate greater participation by women in law enforcement, militaries and police agencies in countries in which they are deployed.

For several months, therefore, Colombia has been a contributor to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, providing two female police officers with a strong background in human rights and the protection of children and adolescents. Colombia would like to reiterate its willingness to step up its contribution in that regard. We hope that, in implementing resolution 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), mechanisms for cooperation, constructive dialogue and effective support to countries will be promoted. We also highlight the role that the General Assembly can play in strengthening cooperation with States in the complex tasks that have been set out.

Strengthening the role and capacity of women, as well as justice and the enforcement of their rights, is of utmost importance for the Government of Colombia. In that effort, the contribution of the United Nations system and the international community is essential.

Colombia, in its capacity as one of the Friends of 1325, will continue to closely monitor developments in the area of women and peace and security and reiterates its commitment to the implementation of policies, plans and programmes that expand and strengthen the role of women in peacebuilding.

Ms. Wallström's dedication, dynamic work and commitment to this cause deserve our recognition and all our support.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Puri (India): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for organizing this debate.

There is a saying that all that is necessary for evil to continue is for good men to do nothing. My delegation believes that the community of nations must ensure that the human rights of all are respected. Universal respect for human rights is, in our view, the basis of the common and better future that we seek to build.

The weakest are the biggest victims of conflict and, as the Secretary-General points out in his report (S/2010/604), women continue to suffer appallingly in conflicts. Sexual violence is, according to the report, not merely a consequence of conflict but a driver. It perpetuates conflict and locks its victims into a vicious cycle of violence and oppression. The international community has not just the responsibility, but also the obligation to do its utmost to ensure the security of women and children.

Two important strands of international concern converge in this debate. These are the struggle to empower women and the constant endeavour of the United Nations to preserve peace and international security.

The struggle to empower women has moved forward from declaratory resolutions. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Commission on the Status of Women have been milestones in that journey.

I was myself proactively involved in the creation of UN Women. We have very high expectations from that entity.

No country can be absolved from the responsibility of acting against sexual violence, one of

the more abhorrent forms of violence against women. My delegation is committed to international regimes that further those objectives.

The proceedings of the Council today will add to the edifice created by resolutions 1325 (2000), 1612 (2005), 1820 (2008), 1882 (2009) and 1888 (2009). Those and other decisions of the Security Council on, inter alia, sexual violence, children and the protection of civilians have led to a significant addition to the corpus of international law.

We welcome the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström.

Thanks to the resolve of the international community the operational and peacekeeping activities of the United Nations has been oriented towards recognizing the plight of women and children in conflict areas and being proactive in working towards preventing violence against them. India supports those developments.

The resolution that was adopted yesterday (resolution 1960 (2010)) and which we sponsored, will add a number of new dimensions to the ongoing work. While the objectives of that framework are laudable, its implementation remains a work in progress. We will, during our term on the Council, remain seriously engaged with both the evolution of the normative side and its implementation.

The monitoring and reporting mechanism, which is to provide the data on the basis of which the system is to operate, needs close supervision by Member States to ensure its veracity and credibility. Data collection and analysis, as well as listing and de-listing, should be carried out in a transparent and judicious manner under the close supervision of Member States.

The Security Council must ensure that the resources needed to implement its mandates are available. United Nations missions are being asked to do more with less. For example, the resolution that was just adopted will expand the mandate without expanding already inadequate resources.

Being the largest troop-contributing country in United Nations history, with more than 100,000 peacekeepers in 40 United Nations missions, India has perhaps more experience than most in implementing Security Council mandates. It is indeed Indian troops, along with the peacekeepers of fellow troop-contributing countries, who convert the intent of this Council into deed.

We take great pride in the stellar record of our peacekeepers, both men and women, in the protection of women, children and the weak. Indian troops have apprehended some of the principal culprits behind the recent sexual violence in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We can do much more if more resources are made available.

Martin Luther King once said that injustice anywhere diminishes justice everywhere. We believe that the perpetrators of those crimes must be brought to justice. Relevant national capacities must be strengthened.

The Secretariat and the funds and programmes can do more. We believe that greater participation by women in the areas of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction is an essential prerequisite for lasting peace and security.

We believe that women's protection advisers have a key role to play in implementation, and we would be happy to contribute such personnel. We value the contributions of civil society in that arena.

I am a member of the Sikh faith. Four centuries ago, Guru Gobind Singh, at a time when conditions in India were unstable and conflict-ridden, ordered us to treat women captured in battle with the greatest respect. That is the Indian ethos in respect of women, particularly during situations of conflict. That is what we are committed to and what we will uphold.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica): It is an honour for Costa Rica to speak in its capacity as Chair of the Human Security Network. The Network is a cross-regional group of countries that includes Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, with South Africa as an observer.

On behalf of the members, I would like to express our appreciation for the convening of an open debate on this important topic and thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, for the presentation of the report (S/2010/604).

The Human Security Network stresses the need to provide coherent and strategic leadership in the United Nations on the issue of sexual violence in conflict, including through the allocation of appropriate resources in implementing the mandate conferred on Ms. Wallström by the Security Council in its resolution 1888 (2009). We would like to express our support to Ms. Wallström and encourage her to build strong synergies with the United Nations operational system.

Less than two months ago, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). Unfortunately, progress towards the implementation of cross-cutting gender commitments, especially those aimed at curbing, punishing perpetrators of and protecting against sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, has not been satisfactory. In that respect, we welcome the progress made on Ms. Wallström's five-point priority agenda as a step forward in the process.

The report highlights, inter alia, the challenges posed by inaccurate information about sexual violence, inadequate preventive measures and the failure to end impunity. In the light of such challenges, we strongly support the efforts of the United Nations system to establish monitoring, reporting and analysis arrangements with regard to conflict-related sexual violence.

Timely, objective, accurate and reliable information, verified by the United Nations system, on conflict-related sexual violence is crucial to addressing this issue in a comprehensive and systematic manner. It must be the basis for further action by the Security Council, including the adoption of sanctions and other targeted measures, and for including in the Secretary-General's annual reports to the Council detailed information on parties to armed conflict who are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence.

As suggested in the report, the arrangements should take into account experiences gained and practices developed through the monitoring and reporting mechanism established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) on children and armed conflict.

Sexual violence, including by parties to armed conflicts, is unacceptable at any time. We call on all of them to cease such acts and to make concrete commitments in this regard, as called for in resolution 1960 (2010), adopted yesterday.

All necessary steps, including targeted measures, must be taken to protect individuals, hold perpetrators accountable and provide remedy to victims. Ending impunity for perpetrators and those responsible in chains of command, including United Nations personnel, is imperative. The Rome Statute's qualification of sexual-related crimes as potential war crimes and crimes against humanity constituted a major achievement in the fight against impunity. In this connection, we urge the Security Council to refer relevant cases to the International Criminal Court.

The Human Security Network also takes note of the recommendation regarding the adoption by relevant sanctions committees of sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities. In this regard, the exchange of information among United Nations peacekeeping missions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Security Council sanctions committees will be of great importance.

Women's full enjoyment of all human rights has been a priority of the Human Security Network since its inception. While it is crucial to this agenda that we maintain momentum in the fight against sexual violence, we also underline the importance of women's empowerment as part of the solution. Sustainable peace is not possible without the participation of women; and without the participation of women in laying the foundations for sustainable peace, sustainable development may also be hindered in the future.

We particularly welcome the adoption of a new resolution on sexual violence in conflict. We express our hope that efforts to combat sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and its aftermath will be strengthened in a manner that will support a coherent and comprehensive United Nations response consistent with the conceptualization of the newly-created UN Women.

Neither silence, nor tolerance, nor impunity is an option when facing the perpetrators. This is a message that should clearly emanate from the Security Council, and one that must resonate with us all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kenya.

Ms. Ojiambo (Kenya): Kenya welcomes the leadership shown by the United States in convening this debate during its presidency of the Council. My delegation also welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/604) on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), and supports the progress described therein while taking note of the remaining challenges. Kenya further welcomes the adoption of resolution 1960 (2010) yesterday to strengthen responses to sexual violence through the establishment of monitoring and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence.

I wish to also thank the Secretary-General, Special Representative Wallström, Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy and Lieutenant General Gaye for their insightful briefings yesterday.

In his report, the Secretary-General brings to light how conflict-related sexual violence has become a threat to human security, especially for women and girls. The report also highlights how such violence is an impediment to socio-economic development and peacebuilding efforts in countries emerging from conflict situations. The continued use of sexual violence as a tactic of war serves as a wake-up call to all of us that more needs to be done to protect women and girls from sexual violence.

My delegation would also wish to underscore the fact that peace, justice and security are interdependent. There can be no peace without the peace of mind that enables women to undertake their daily tasks, no justice without a national capacity to deliver justice, and no security without women's security. For this reason, the issue that we are addressing today — women and peace and security — is important and deserves the absolute and unrelenting support of the international community.

My delegation welcomes the appointment of Margot Wallström as the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to provide coherent and strategic leadership in the fight against this vice. We wish her the very best in executing her mandate. The international attention and the priority that the diplomatic community ascribes to her Office are already being demonstrated in the countries where she has conducted field visits. Her recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo following the mass rapes of over 300 women and girls in Walikale contributed to the arrest of "Lieutenant Colonel" Mayele, a suspect in the mass rapes. Kenya believes that her leadership will further serve to bolster efforts geared towards the fight against sexual violence in armed conflict.

In armed conflicts, civilian casualties far outnumber those of armed combatants. While women and men alike suffer human rights violations in conflicts, women and girls are more likely to be the targets of sexual violence, especially rape. Women face additional and sometimes insurmountable obstacles to obtaining justice because of the stigma attached to survivors of sexual violence, their disadvantaged position in society and cultural challenges.

In this regard, Kenya welcomes the progress made in establishing the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law, whose mandate is to assist national authorities in strengthening the rule of law and facilitating access to justice for such victims. Kenya supports the Secretary-General's call on countries affected by conflict to draw from this important resource. Member States are also urged to ensure that the Team has sustainable funding to facilitate its work.

My delegation appreciates the very important role that women's protection advisers will play in protecting women and girls from sexual violence. Their support for the monitoring, analysis and reporting system on sexual violence and their facilitation of dialogue with parties to conflict are welcome. The development and implementation of strategies to combat sexual violence and the mainstreaming of the elimination of sexual violence into policies and operations of peacekeeping and political missions are also welcome.

While Kenya notes the proposal to determine the need for the advisers on a case-by-case basis, caution should be taken, however, to ensure that delays in making such decisions do not lead to undue suffering for women and girls in conflict situations.

The lifelong negative effects on victims and perpetrators alike of the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, buttress the call for prevention of conflict and, where conflict exists, for expedient action in ending the conflict. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for protecting civilians lies with each State, the implementation of (2008) and 1888 (2009) would be better realized through genuine partnerships between nation States and other international efforts.

Kenya condemns all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence, and has always urged compliance with humanitarian and human rights law during times of conflict. The appalling situation regarding the atrocities of sexual violence meted out against women and girls in conflict situations, especially in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa, have to be looked at seriously. As a community of States, we must rigorously implement the United Nations zero-tolerance policy against sexual abuse and exploitation.

We must also provide protection for women and ensure that putting a stop to war-related sexual violence is prioritized at the international level. We laud the crucial work being carried out by agencies such as UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF to deal with such issues. Similarly, we need to galvanize support to put in place the necessary infrastructure to ensure that victims of sexual violence receive quality legal and medical assistance.

More women should be involved in peace mediation and peacebuilding processes. Decisions should not be made for women. Women must be part and parcel of a process that affects them. In that regard, Kenya's new constitutional requirement that no more than two-thirds of the members of elected or appointed bodies shall be of the same gender is a principle that can be emulated in order to mainstream women into such processes.

I wish to conclude by reiterating my country's commitment to the full and timely implementation of all Security Council resolutions against sexual violence, including resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010). Beyond that, we call on all parties to conflicts to make specific and time-bound commitments to ceasing all acts of sexual violence.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Argüello (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate your delegation, Madame President, on its presidency of the Council for the month of December. We appreciate the initiative to convene this open debate on such a sad and timely issue. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, his Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, as well as Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy and Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye for their briefings yesterday.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2010/604) on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) lists a series of acts that can only be described as atrocities committed against women in various conflict situations currently on the Council's agenda. It is hard to believe that such acts can be perpetrated as mere war tactics deliberately directed at civilian populations in an environment of complete insecurity, and therefore complete impunity.

The international community cannot remain indifferent to such atrocities, nor accept the myth that rape is an inevitable by-product of war. Doing so would paralyse any attempt to eradicate such actions. Sexual violence must be considered a violation of the victims' human rights; that being the case, the perpetrators must be prosecuted, judged and punished. At the same time, we must step-up awareness-raising campaigns aimed at the civilian population vis-à-vis preventing such crimes. And we must urge States to strengthen protection for girls and women in conflicts.

Regrettably, sexual violence is a constant at all stages of armed conflict. Often, it is not a matter of isolated incidents, but instead includes related crimes such as kidnapping, indiscriminate killing, torture, looting and forced displacement. The international community must continue to urge armed groups to end such abhorrent practices and to work with States to end the impunity surrounding them.

In Argentina, all selection and training procedures carried out when deploying a peacekeeping operation take into account the peacekeeper code of conduct, including issues of gender, abuse, violence and sexual exploitation, as outlined in the concepts and terms established in resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

My country would like to congratulate the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, on her appointment and the work she is doing. We also support the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, in particular the following: first, including in the Secretary-General's annual reports lists of those parties who have committed acts of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, as a basis for more focused engagement with the parties and, where necessary, for the application of targeted measures; secondly, calling on all parties to a conflict to make specific and time-bound commitments to cease all acts of sexual violence; thirdly, establishing a

monitoring, analysis and reporting system; and, lastly, that the Security Council systematically consider the issue of sexual violence when it authorizes or renews the mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my country's unshakable commitment to combating sexual violence in situations of conflict. As a demonstration of that commitment, we were proud to join the co-sponsors of the resolution 1960 (2010), which the Council adopted yesterday.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to begin by saying that Chile associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network.

Chile attaches great importance to the issue of conflict-related sexual violence, which usually affects highly vulnerable groups and which represents a threat to security and a persistent obstacle to peacebuilding, including in situations addressed by the Council. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which my country has ratified, defines six types of sexual violence as crimes against humanity. Accordingly — and in the belief that such violence should be a priority for those dealing with establishing, maintaining and building peace, as well as for humanitarian workers — Chile co-sponsored resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010). Those resolutions enable the international community to focus on prevention and real-time responses, not merely on the necessary corrective measures.

Believing as we do in the merit of the principles underpinning those resolutions, we welcome the Secretary-General's comprehensive report (S/2010/604) on this subject. We also wish to highlight the role played by Ms. Margot Wallström's in fulfilling her mandate as the Secretary-General's Special Representative. We urge her to continue to work actively and collaboratively while avoiding duplication of efforts addressed in other mandates. We also thank her for the field missions she has undertaken, which have borne eloquent witness to the horrors of this scourge. In that regard, we were outraged at the large-scale violations committed in July and August. We acknowledge the crucial need to address this scourge in exemplary, timely and sustainable ways. We also take note of the important work of the network of 13 entities involved in the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. We hope that it will receive the support it needs to continue to improve prevention and early warning mechanisms.

Chile takes a positive view of the following recommendations in the report. The first is to invite the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to exchange pertinent information with the Council and its relevant sanctions committees.

The second is to assess the advisability of adopting sanctions and other measures by the relevant Security Council sanctions committees, as provided in resolution 1888 (2009), taking into consideration their short-, medium- and long-term impacts.

Third is to closely assess the usefulness of including in the annexes to the annual reports lists of parties responsible for sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Security Council agenda as a basis for more focused engagement on the parties. In that connection, we believe that the Council's work on children and armed conflict could serve as a guide.

Fourth is to call on parties in situations of armed conflict on the Council's agenda to make specific and time-bound commitments to put an end to all acts of sexual violence, including clear orders through the chain of command.

Fifth is to support the efforts of the United Nations system to establish monitoring and reporting arrangements with regard to conflict-related sexual violence; to promote the participation of all concerned in the analysis of information, including on trends, patterns and early warning indicators; and to evaluate and identify targeted actions against perpetrators and programmatic responses for survivors.

I conclude by thanking the presidency of the Council for this month, the United States, for having convened this debate, and by calling on the Council to engage decisively in the implementation of the resolutions, which Chile supported together with the mother resolution 1325 (2000), for which we already have a national plan. In our opinion, such implementation will be concrete only if we commit ourselves to concerted action and accountability as regards prevention, participation and protection, taking into account all the stakeholders involved.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. De Laiglesia (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union. As this is the first time that I address the Security Council as the new Permanent Representative of Spain, I would like first to express my gratitude for the opportunity to take part in this debate.

Sexual violence in situations of conflict, like gender-based violence in the home, has remained in the private sphere for far too long. In his report (S/2010/604) on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), the Secretary-General affirms that sexual violence used as a weapon of war can become a way of life that continues once the conflict has ended. All too often, such violence is invisible and thereby protected because it is considered a private aspect of interpersonal relationships. However, we cannot forget that it is a crime of war, a crime against humanity and a flagrant breach of human rights.

The situation is exacerbated by the intolerable impunity that many perpetrators of those crimes enjoy, which allows the problem to be perpetuated over time and prevents it from being fought effectively. Combating that impunity should indeed be our main priority and tried in the appropriate forums, including the International Criminal Court.

The body of standards established by resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), as well as 1960 (2010), adopted yesterday by the Council, is the main tool for combating sexual violence in conflict. The institutional structure being set up, and led by Special Representative Ms. Margot Wallström, is also essential. However, as became obvious at the thematic debate held by the Security Council (see S/PV.6411) on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), a body of standards will not be enough if measures are not applied and implemented. The new resolution should lead the United Nations as a whole to combat sexual violence in situations of conflict even more decisively, ensuring the perfect coordination of the activities of the various bodies and relevant entities, including, of course, the new entity UN Women.

My delegation supports the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and co-sponsored the resolution submitted to the Council. My Government also supports the Special Representative's agenda of priorities and considers it very important to continue training peace contingents to combat sexual violence and to consolidate the institutional structure set out in the resolutions, ensuring that they have the necessary financing.

My Government is completing the second review of our national action plan on women and peace and security, bringing it into line with the provisions of recent Security Council resolutions and broadening its provisions on sexual violence in conflict. In that regard, I am pleased to report three actions that we have recently undertaken.

First, in cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands, we have launched a joint civilian-military training exercise on gender-based violence and the protection of civilians, as mentioned yesterday by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands in his statement. Secondly, Spanish cooperation funds activities promoted by civil society to combat sexual violence in situations of conflict in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil. Finally, in June, the Spanish criminal code was amended to include a specific penalty for those violating the sexual freedom of a protected person in the context of armed conflict.

The international community must continue to combat sexual violence in conflict at the national, regional and global levels. We must end the impunity of perpetrators and provide appropriate compensation to victims, ensuring that they become agents of change and peace. The international community can count on the cooperation of my Government in that undertaking.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Mr. Tsiskarashvili (Georgia): At the outset, let me join previous speakers in commending you, Madame, for organizing this open debate on a very important matter. Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union earlier in the debate.

Georgia welcomes the adoption of resolution 1960 (2010) and is proud to be its co-sponsor. We also welcome the establishment of UN Women and the appointment of Ms. Bachelet as the first leader of that body. We are convinced that, under her able leadership, there will be firm progress in solving problems that are on the women and peace and security agenda.

Despite some achievements and the fact that the issue of women's rights and peace and security has been on the agenda of the Security Council and other relevant United Nations institutions for a decade, we all recognize that serious challenges remain in transforming those positive developments into tangible results. Indeed, women and children are the worst-affected segment of populations in modern conflicts, in which they are influenced by the degradation of their living conditions and fundamental rights.

The violation of the rights of women is one of the principal characteristics of various conflicts across the world in both conflict and post-conflict situations. Unfortunately, 10 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the plight of women and girls in armed conflict is still dire. Regrettably, the war in Georgia in August 2008 was no exception in that sense. It resulted in the gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including violence against women.

Due to the sensitive nature of the crime, rapes are frequently underreported, especially in war. Nonetheless, the rape, torture and mutilation of ethnic Georgian women were by registered by various international and non-governmental organizations, including the independent fact-finding mission headed by Swiss diplomat Heidi Tagliavini. The documented cases unequivocally prove the involvement of occupying forces from a neighbouring country and its proxies in serious violations of women's rights, including sexual violence and humiliating treatment, among the other instruments of ethnic cleansing that we have witnessed on the occupied territories of Georgia since the early 1990s.

Even today, the rights and freedoms of Georgian women are jeopardized in the occupied territories of Georgia. Human rights watchdogs and international missions are banned from monitoring the humanitarian and human rights situation in the occupied territories. As a result, this situation, which has deteriorated, remains off the United Nations radar. The continuation of the current state of affairs cannot be tolerated by the international community.

Finally, let me reassure the Council that Georgia supports the efforts of the entire United Nations family to prevent, and eventually eradicate, violence against women.

The President: I now give the floor to Ms. Margot Wallström to respond to comments.

Ms. Wallström: First of all, I would like to thank the President for her determined leadership, and that of the United States of America, on the issue of conflict-related sexual violence. I also wish to thank all the Permanent Representatives and delegations for their supportive, constructive and, I would say, inspiring interventions.

With the adoption of resolution 1960 (2010) we have now been given the tools to fight sexual violence in conflict and to hold the perpetrators accountable through international scrutiny and pressure; now we must use them. A resolution is only as good as its implementation. And implementation, as we all know, requires sustained resolve as well as resources.

My team and I will consistently remind the world of the new consensus that we have forged here in the Security Council. We will deploy the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law to help Governments to break the cycle of impunity. We will use the platform of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict to ensure a coordinated and coherent response from the United Nations system, including more effective prevention, a rapid protection response to early warning indicators and spikes in sexual violence and comprehensive support to survivors.

We will continue to amplify in the Chamber the voices of survivors from war-torn corners of the globe. We will not rest. We might even be difficult at times. But, with the Council's help and continued support, we can and we will stop this scourge. For the first time, we will name and shame the perpetrators and track their actions in order to prevent and punish sexual violence as an act of war.

Ten years since the Council first considered the issue of women and peace and security, women now are watching and waiting all over the world.

The President: I would like to thank Ms. Wallström very much for the comments she has just made, for spending time with us and listening to our views and for her commitment to this issue.

The representative of the Russian Federation has requested the floor.

Mr. Tolkach (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): With regard to the statement made by the representative of Georgia, I would like to recall that, as a result of Georgia's armed aggression in 2008, two independent States were formed — South Ossetia and Abkhazia — and that there are no occupying forces on the territory of those States, as such.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6454

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6454th meeting

Friday, 17 December 2010, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Sumi
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Demekhin
	Turkey	Mr. Söylemez
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

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10-69911 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

The President: Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/643, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1961 (2010).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 3.10 p.m.